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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE THREE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

ACCORDING to the proverb, "better late than never," it is satisfactory to perceive, that after so many years of mismanagement, Commissioners have been appointed to examine into the application of the large funds, which have been allotted for the avowed purpose of promoting education in Ireland. The funds are great, and the question is naturally suggested, how far they have answered the purpose for which they were nominally appropriated. Funds allotted by the Parliament of Scotland, vastly inferior in magnitude, have produced much good, while but little has been effected in this land of jobs, by the enormous appropriation of lands and money for a great length of time. The reason is obvious: in Scotland, the sums were small, too limited for the extension of patronage, and were managed by those who paid the tax, and who would consequently be jealous of any misapplication of the funds. In Ireland, on the contrary, the funds were large, and afforded to our civil and ecclesiastical rulers the sweets of patronage. From these considerations it is not probable that such a system of national education, as is detailed in these reports, is likely to be well managed. The people may, perhaps, be allowed to tax themselves to support and extend such establishments, but so long as the patronage is vested in Government, the interests of the few will preponderate over the general good, and the patronage in appointing so many school-masters, will only have the tendency to increase that overwhelming influence, which some years ago, in rather better times than the present, was by high authority declared "to have increased, was then increasing, and ought to be diminished."

The selection of the Commissioners affords room to doubt the efficacy of this commission. A high dignitary of the church has an overwhelming influence, and may reasonably be expected to be so attached to that system from which he draws his emoluments, as to be on the watch that the church receive no damage; and throughout these reports we perceive the predominating sentiment, that the Protestantism of the establishment shall maintain its ascendancy. Other Commissioners, leagued with a chief of supreme authority, must be cautious not to advance any sentiment which may not square with preconceived opinions, and much concession and compromise will necessarily be the result; and concession and compromise weaken the force of a searching and thorough-going inquiry. How far a national system of education, in a nation where a great proportion of the expense is borne by dissenters of different kinds, ought to embrace the exclusive advantage of one sect, and be accommodated to its interests, shall be deferred to the succeeding part of this essay, when the subject of Charter-schools shall pass under review.

In the first place, it is necessary to advert to the first report of the Commissioners. This relates wholly to the endowed schools, which by a misnomer have been denominated free-schools. The funds have been diverted to the private emolument of him, who has the interest to get himself appointed master. In some places no school has been regularly kept up, and in those schools which are not mere sinecures, no reduction in the

prices charged for board or education appears to have taken place in consequence of the high endowments, nor any boys taken on the foundation, except in the school of Raphoe, where three are instructed, though this latter plan is now recommended in one part of the Report.

The disposition of the masters to consider the trust as entirely for their own private emolument, is further evinced by the sacrifice of the interest of the successor, by granting a lease in trust to some friend, for the advantage of the family of the master, after his decease, when the present master has sufficient interest to procure such a trust lease. It is satisfactory to observe, that this practice is rather blamed by the Commissioners; and it would afford additional satisfaction, if active legislative measures were speedily adopted to prevent the recurrence of such a practice.

It may be noticed with satisfaction, that the Report states favourably the management of the schools of Armagh and Enniskillen. The master of the school at Dungannon receives, very properly, from his age and infirmities, a hint to retire. The schools of Cavan, Banagher, and Carysfort, according to this Report, afford striking proofs of extreme misapplication of the funds. This part of the Report is a useful comment on the liability of public institutions to become scandalously abused.

The second Report relates to two schools of private foundation. The schools of Navan and Ballyronan appear to be very badly conducted, and to have been hitherto almost entirely subservient to private emolument, as the master of both, till very lately, was the same person, and he never discharged the duties of either in person. It is particularly deserving of notice, that the highly endowed Protestant school of Navan is not well attended, because children are educated on lower terms at the unendowed Catholic school in that town.

The circumstances of these two schools show how easily the intentions of a benevolent testator may be frustrated, by the manner in which his intentions may be prevented from being carried into execution. Surely it is better for persons of affluence to do good in their life-time, and not leave the execution of their good intentions to be marred by their successors. A love of posthumous fame may sometimes induce the making of such bequests: sometimes also more laudable motives may actuate. But the glaring mismanagement which is here recorded, operates as a discouragement to the purest, and most benevolent motives. A school supported by annual subscriptions, and managed by those who contribute, and can best controul the appropriation of the funds, by their personal attention, is attended with greater probability of success, than when the funds are drawn from other sources. If, in such a case, the funds are less permanent, this disadvantage is more than compensated by the greater care with which subscribers superintend the expenditure of their own money, and by the preventive checks thus provided against that system of jobbing into which public institutions are so liable to fall. The annual renewal of subscriptions, infuses new vigour into institutions, solely or in great measure dependent on them for support.

In considering the third Report, which solely relates to the Protestant Charter-schools, many serious objections present against this system of making converts—which, after many years of trial, has been found ineffectual to promote the end in view, "the conversion of the lower orders of the inhabitants of Ireland from Popery." Many, perhaps it may be said most, educated in these schools, have not continued in the Protestant persuasion, and the prejudice against them was formerly so strong, that it is mentioned in the Report of Shannon-grove Nursery, as given in the Appendix, "that the country people used to beat the carriers who were employed to remove the children to other schools; but they did not do so now, but often took that opportunity of decoying them away."—Such attempts are naturally to be expected, especially when for a time these schools were almost exclusively confined to children of Catholics. Now, admission is open to the children of Protestants, as appears to be consistent with the words of the

original charter. It is not reasonable to expect that parents would readily surmount their objections to give up their children to be educated in a faith contrary to their own; and such who would most readily consent, it may be expected, were generally the most inconsiderate and profligate, who, to get rid of the expense of maintaining their children, would thus permit them to be withdrawn from them.

The plan of charter-schools contains so many and great radical defects, that we fear no measures short of an entire change of system, can cure them. Dr. Drennan, in his letter to the Earl of Fitzwilliam, written in 1795, thus characterises them, and shows the pernicious tendency of this exclusive system:—

"MY LORD,

"I do request you will take the trouble of reading the account of this inveterately-illiberal institution in any common almanack, and every line will, I think, carry its own reprobation to an ingenuous mind. 'The children,' as it is regulated in this unnatural system, 'are all placed in schools *remote* from their former abodes,' or, in other words, they are torn from all the sweet associations that attend the interesting idea of home. This is indeed a charity which thrives on the extinction of all other charities of life; and the feelings of nature must be eradicated before they can become nurslings of the state. They are banished from their vicinage to a remote quarter of the kingdom, where all traces and ties of kindred are lost and cut off; all habitudes of the heart smothered in the cradle; and when sent into the world, they know not the spot which gave them birth, the mother that bore them, nor the blood that flows in their veins. I think of the speech of Logan, the Indian Chief, when all his kindred were murdered by the English: 'There runs not a drop of my blood in the veins of any living creature!' It is a cold, a cheerless, and a forlorn feeling of this nature, which must freeze the young blood, and placing the mind in a state of sullen insulation, makes its re-action upon society rather dangerous than beneficial. The ties of kindred operate as a sort of external conscience upon the conduct of men, deterring them from the commission of great crimes, for the fear of disgrace, which would be reflected upon their relatives. There is a family pride, a domestic honour, among the very poorest and lowest of the community, that guards and sanctions, and is a sort of God for the little household. Even the highest have such workings of nature, and Lady Macbeth exclaims, 'Had he not resembled *my father* when he slept, I had done't.' The imagined countenance of her father was the only conscience left, and came between her and murder. But charter-school policy makes a sort of massacre of all those domestic moralities which operate upon character and conduct, without being able, in the present state of Ireland, to put a higher and nobler principle of action in their place; and thus, I fear, this same policy has bred up many victims for the laws, while they only thought of making proselytes to a religion."

While the radical principle is bad, and an exclusive spirit pervades the entire system, as may appear from the 71st rule, for their government.—"No person is appointed a member of the local committee, of any school or nursery under the direction of the incorporated society, who is not a Protestant of the Church of England, as by law established, and well affected to his Majesty's government;" little good can be expected from this plan to manufacture Protestants. It is only combating prejudice, by another set of prejudices. The system of education wanting in Ireland, is not the inculcation of dogmas, as we are told is necessary, by one of the commissioners, R. L. Edgeworth, in his letter to the board of education, published in the appendix, but to teach the youth, to read and write, and having thus opened the avenues to the acquisition of further instruction, leave them to form their own creed, on the increased evidences, which by such means may be put within their reach. A national education being at a public expense should not be confined to the furtherance of the religion of a part.—Divided as we are in Ireland, on

religious subjects, morality, in the necessity of which all are agreed, and not speculative tenets, respecting which such diversity prevails, should form the only principle, on which a system of national instruction should be laid; if this primary rule is not attended to, all other plans will be radically defective; the patronage of government may be increased, but the good of the people will not be promoted. So strongly are some impressed with this sentiment, that much as education is wanting in Ireland they would prefer to see things remain as they are, rather than by the unwise policy of an extension of the Charter-school system, add to the dissensions already so prevalent in this country.

It is pleasing to understand from the report that these schools have been greatly improved, in the course of the last ten years, and that the very objectionable formula, entitled the Protestant Catechism, has been latterly discontinued; but after all, with such magnificent funds, which amounted in last year (exclusive of the parliamentary grant of nearly £20,000) to £9765 9*s.* 7*d.* it is obvious that as much good has not been done, as might have been effected by the judicious application of such large means, on a truly enlightened plan.

If Charter-schools, under all their disadvantages, have done some good, by bringing up a number of poor and destitute children, to habits of industry, and qualifying them to be useful members of society, much more might have been effected on a more liberal plan.

Some objections may also be made to the scheme of farming out the children to the master or mistress, both as to their providing food for the children, and drawing emolument from their labour, and also to the ineffectual check of local committees on abuses that may arise from the frauds of the masters, more especially, as complaint is made, that local committees, with some honourable exceptions, cannot be universally or implicitly relied on, "for effectual controul over the management of the schools, or as accurate organs of communication of their actual state." A painful reflection hence arises, too generally applicable in other cases, that a disinterested disposition to give up time and ease for the public good, is seldom to be met with, proving that public spirit is at a very low ebb.

As contrasted with our school establishments in Ireland, including the ample provision of lands, for those misnamed free-schools, and the funds of the incorporated society of charter schools, as well as of the schools on private foundation, the parochial schools in Scotland, may be brought into view, as they are described by the elegant pen of Dr. Currie, in his prefatory remarks on the character of the Scottish peasantry, in the life of Burns.

"By an act of the King (James VI.) and privy council, of the 10th December 1616, it was recommended to the bishops to deale and travel with the heritors (landed proprietors) and inhabitants of the several parishes in their respective dioceses, towards the fixing upon "some certain, solid, and sure course," for settling and entertaining a school in each parish—This was ratified by a statute of Charles I. (in the year 1633) which empowered the bishop, with the consent of the heritors of a parish, or of a majority of the inhabitants, if the heritors refused to attend the meeting, to assess every plough of land (that is every farm in proportion to the number of ploughs upon it) with a certain sum for establishing a school. This was an ineffectual provision, as depending on the consent and pleasure of the heritors and inhabitants. Therefore a new order of things was introduced by an act passed in 1646, which obliges the heritors and minister of each parish to meet and assess the several heritors with the requisite sum for building a school-house, and to elect a school-master, and modify a salary for him in all time to come. The salary is ordered not to be under one hundred, nor above two hundred merks, that is, in our present sterling money, not under *l.*5 11*s.* 1½*d.* nor above *l.*11

2*s.* 3*d.* and the assessment is to be laid on the land in the same proportion as it is rated for the support of the clergy, and as it regulates the payment of the land tax. But in case the heritors of any parish, or the majority of them, should fail to discharge this duty, then the persons forming what is called the committee of supply of the county (consisting of the principal landholders) or any five of them, are authorised by the statute to impose the assessment instead of them, on the representation of the presbytery in which the parish is situated. To secure the choice of a proper teacher, the right of election of the heritors, by a statute passed in the year 1693, is made subject to the review and controul of the presbytery of the district; who have the examination of the person proposed committed to them, both as to his qualifications as a teacher, and as to his proper deportment in the office when settled in it. The election of the heritors is therefore only a presentment of a person, for the approbation of the presbytery: who, if they find him unfit, may declare his incapacity, and thus oblige them to elect anew.

"The legal salary of the school-master was not inconsiderable at the time it was fixed; but by the decrease in the value of money, it is now certainly inadequate to its object;—and it is painful to observe, that the landholders of Scotland resisted the humble application of the schoolmasters to the legislature for its increase a few years ago. The number of parishes in Scotland is 877; and if we allow the salary of a schoolmaster in each to be, on an average, seven pounds sterling, the amount of the legal provision will be *l.*6139 sterling. If we suppose the wages paid by the scholars to amount to twice this sum, which is probably beyond the truth, the total of the expenses among 1,526,492 persons (the whole population of Scotland) of this most important establishment, will be £18,417. But on this, as well as on other subjects respecting Scotland, accurate information may soon be expected from Sir John Sinclair's Analysis of his Statistics, which will complete the immortal monument he has reared to his patriotism.

"The benefit arising in Scotland from the instruction of the poor, was soon felt; and by an act of the British parliament, 4 Geo. I. chap. vi. it is enacted, "that of the monies arising from the sale of the Scottish estates forfeited in the rebellion of 1715, £20,000 sterling shall be converted into a capital stock, the interest of which shall be laid out in erecting and maintaining schools in the Highlands." The society for promoting Christian Knowledge, incorporated in 1709, have applied a large part of their fund for the same purpose.—By their report, 1st May 1795, the annual sum employed by them, in supporting their schools in the Highlands and Islands, was *l.*3913 19*s.* 10*d* in which are taught the English language, reading and writing, and the principles of religion. The schools of the society are additional to the legal schools, which, from the great extent of many of the Highland parishes were found insufficient. Besides these established schools, the lower classes of the people in Scotland, where the parishes are large, often combine together, and establish private schools of their own, at one of which it was that Burns received the principal part of his education. So convinced, indeed, are the poor people of Scotland, by experience, of the benefit of instruction to their children, that though they may often find it difficult to feed and cloathe them, some kind of school instruction they almost always procure them."

One simple principle runs through this plan. It is managed by the parishes, and though inadequate to the proper support of those schools at present, yet this establishment has already done much good, beyond all doubt, much more than the splendid and more showy apparatus of schools in Ireland, and is capable of being further extended, and worthy of being adopted, with such alterations as may be necessary to adopt it to local circumstances, as a model of similar establishments.

K.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ON THE DEPRECIATION OF CURRENCY.

GENTLEMEN,

ENCOURAGED by the candid and manly invitation you have given in your number for September, to those, who, holding different sentiments in politics from yourselves, have found a difficulty of introducing them to the public, I take the liberty of requesting you will devote a few of your valuable columns to the observations I have been induced to make from a perusal of your sentiments on the progressive change in the circulating medium of this country; and I feel that I am included in this invitation, though I shall not speak, either of the constitution, the religion, or the ministry of the day, conceiving, that whatever embraces so important a consideration as the dependance of our commercial character, on the honour and fidelity with which the national banks discharge their relative duties, is a matter ranking high in a political view of the present times, the very existence of national independence being so identified in the operation and effect of mercantile agency, that the terms *political* and *commercial* are almost become synonymous.

I have read, with no small concern, that part of the "Commercial Report" which relates to the present state of our currency; but relying on the progressive developement of the real cause of the scarcity of guineas, and anticipating the result which now appears to be actually produced, I was unwilling to trespass on your pages; anxious, however, that the character and influence of your work should be as extended as its circulation, I beg to apologize for troubling you with so unwelcome a communication, as disapprobation at all times must be.

In your Commercial Report for August, you have given, what in my mind is so forcible, so self-evident a refutation of the doctrine of depreciation, that I had hoped ere this it would have been noticed by some abler pen.

You say, "the course of exchange between the continent of Europe and Great Britain, has been at the rate of 5 per cent to the disadvantage of the latter. The merchants who had exported articles to the continent felt this inconvenience, and this unfavourable exchange was still further aggravated by the bills drawn on account of the Austrian subsidy, which, in this instance, subjected either the Austrian or British Government to a defalcation of 4th of the sum granted. Guineas, for a time, were eagerly bought up by the Jews and others in the commercial towns in England, at a premium, and it is said that 20,000 guineas were seized at the Custom-house, in an attempt to send them to the continent for *commercial* purposes;" and then follows this most curious reasoning, this extraordinary conclusion, that "from *this circumstance* we may clearly perceive, that there is, in consequence of the Bank restriction, a real depreciation of Bank paper, whenever it comes in competition with specie." Is then this depreciation of Bank paper, (which to say the least of it, charges the establishment with some degree of mismanagement or fraud) a consequence of the Austrian subsidy, or any way resulting from an increase of speculative enterprize. In a word, what has this five-and twenty per cent history to do with Bank paper, or what does it mean; to put it in other words, do you not intend to say, that, in consequence of an existing exchange of twenty-five per cent against England, for the reasons assigned, that merchants had recourse to gold, not as *money*, but bullion, which they could purchase cheaper than bills of Exchange, to answer continental demands; that the Jews bought them up as they would bad shillings, old plate, or any other commodity, at the lowest rate they could, not paying and receiving them as a medium for the convenience of trade, but to sell again to others for "*commercial purposes*". If this is not the matter of the above observations, I have sadly misconceived your meaning. You proceed to say, that "notwithstanding, a thorough conviction of this depreciation, there appears no cause to alter the opinion formerly expressed in these reports, that, for the purposes of *internal* trade, Bank notes answer

equally well with specie;" let me ask, of what use are guineas, or any species of coin, *but* for the purposes of *internal* trade and accommodation, and not as an article of traffic, to be exported as our linens or provisions, and rise and fall with the demand? So soon as they become collected for the purpose of exportation, do they not lose their name, character, and intent, as money, as a circulating medium? Again, "in consequence of the demand for the Butter trade, that guineas bore a premium, at one period of this month, of three per cent, but that it has *latterly* declined to 2¼ and 2 per cent." Let us come to the point at once, and understand each other: Do you mean to say that Bank notes were depreciated in value during one part of the month to the amount of 3 per cent, and at another 2? I cannot think you will answer this with an affirmative; it would be little short of placing our boasted national solvency, our "highly-vaunted commercial prosperity" on—the *butter market!* a slippery foundation truly. Should, however, *I* be in error, you have afforded me one consolation, one ray of hope amidst all this unpromising gloom, namely, that as the depreciation was 1 per cent *less* at the *close* of the month, there being no retrogressive motion, who knows but that our Bank may yet recover, and I hope you will thank me for this discovery, this cheering prospect, when others that I could name are prophesying that "this evil may probably at no distant day sap the highly vaunted commercial prosperity of Great Britain, and from the intimate connection between Government and the Bank, *endanger the safety of the country!*—dreadful alternative of the "demand for butter!" I could lay down my pen, and weep over the fate of my poor, poor country, subject to such barometrical fluctuations. What certainty have we of its prosperity? But things have rather ebbed in our favour during the month of August, by your Report, and I will endeavour to proceed, "hoping all things," for I cannot think our national prosperity is so visionary, "*Magni nominis umbra.*"

In your report for September, you say, "this depreciation of bank paper is now forcing itself on the observation of the public." Is the almost total silence among *mercantile* men, a proof of this? Is the neglect of this "progressive evil" by parliament, since the appointment and report of a select committee, a proof of this; again, "gold bullion about the period of the restriction on the bank not to pay in specie, in 1797, was 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per ounce, it soon rose to 4*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* and is now at 4*l.* 13*s.* or an advance of 20 per cent, or, in other words, gold, in competition with the present circulating medium of paper is *increased* about one-fifth in value," there is a degree of confusion here in the application of the terms, "gold" and "*gold bullion*" which should be done away, however it will not be unreasonable for me to ask, if there be no distinction between the *depreciation* of bank-paper, and the *increase* of gold-bullion in relative value, are they synonymous terms, effects of one cause, or are they not an aggregate of imaginary evil, fabricated to bring down obloquy on the banks of England and Ireland? Further, "this depreciation is in great measure occasioned by the extravagant issue of bank notes, owing to the restriction act, exonerating the bank from the obligation to pay their notes in specie, for, *if* guineas *were* in general circulation, exchange on the continent could never rise much above par," (that is, the present objectionable issues being reduced to the limits of 1797, for if the observation dont mean this, it means nothing) so far is true, admitting that there *were* guineas enough in general circulation for the purposes of trade. But pray what would be the situation of this mercantile, this buying and selling nation, when all, or even a considerable part of those guineas came to be exported, as is the present case, we should then see the extraordinary anomaly of a solvent state, without a mean of liquidation; every merchant would be compelled to become his own banker, issuing his own obligations; or, as was the case before the establishment of banks, or lending money on bills by capitalists, a merchant would be necessitated to hold his merchandize until he found a purchaser with *gold* sufficient to pay for them; and, I believe, when you consider the extent of the commercial intercourse of the present day with this, æra and of

the creation of paper money, you will agree with me in the impracticability of so confined a system.

I should here conclude, having already trespassed too far on your indulgence, were it possible to overlook the implication of dishonour and deception on the bank, which follows, "that to hide the increase of their issues, they diminish their discounts in the proportion of 1 to 4, previous to laying their annual accounts before Parliament, and immediately extend their issues when the account is made up." I shall only reply to this by saying, were the directors of the bank, in defiance of every feeling of honour or interest, to stoop to such a shallow artifice, they would by such conduct counteract the implied object of silencing the outcry on the high price of guineas, or, as you please to term it, the depreciation of their paper; nay, they would increase this evil, taking your position that the premium on guineas is the index by which we ascertain the state of bank note depreciation, as they would inevitably rise in value rather than decrease, in as much as they would be of greater importance, from the diminution of the circulating medium, to the amount of the contraction of discounts you have stated.

I shall not trespass further than as a "friend to fair discussion," and confiding in the "omnipotence of truth over error," I shall not do you the injustice to doubt your willingness to admit these observations into your pages.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your constant reader,

Coleraine. CHARLES WILLIAMS.
Oct. 21st, 1809.

Notes in Reply, by the Commercia Reporter.

THE foregoing letter, dated the 21st ulto, did not reach the Reporter till the 24th, when it was too late, without materially deranging the plan of the magazine, to give insertion to it in the last number.

Previously to entering on the subject of this letter, the Commercial Reporter wishes to explain, what, to some may appear an inconsistency, in these reports. In the early numbers he advocated the simplifying of money transactions in this country, by having all payments in one medium, and as guineas could not be procured in sufficient quantities, the more general adoption of paying in bank-notes was recommended as an evil of less magnitude, than the complicated manner of dealing partly in guineas, and partly in notes, by which the skilful computer had the advantage over those less knowing; but he never attempted to deny the actual depreciation of bank notes, when they are not payable in guineas: throughout the entire discussion, he both impliedly and expressly admitted this fact, which appeared to him, then and now incontrovertible. He has not changed his former position, in the latter considerations on the subject of depreciation. The first was a question of domestic or local policy, whether it were not better to submit, as in this quarter we could not alter the general current; now the question is taken up more broadly, as affecting the general commercial interests of the empire.

The following remarks are submitted to the public, in the shape of notes on C. W's. letter.

"Is then this depreciation of bank paper, a consequence of the Austrian subsidy, or any way resulting from an increase of speculative enterprize; or what has this twenty-five per cent history to do with bank paper?"

The state of exchange on the Continent being unfavourable to England, proves the depreciation of our paper currency, because if we had guineas in circulation, as at the beginning of the war, exchange could never be at a loss of 25 per cent to England, for guineas would be remitted and the exchange would never be more against England, than probably a little more than the cost of sending guineas to the Continent. We have not guineas to send; our paper will not pass on the Continent, and bills drawn at Hamburgh on London, to be paid in notes, are at a loss of 25 per cent. An English guinea, *not a bank-note for that sum*, would in Hamburgh be really worth 1*l.* 5*s.* in such a course of exchange.

"Merchants had recourse to gold, not as money, but as bullion."

Gold bullion in England is worth

4*l.* 13*s.* per oz. but when coined into guineas, it only brings 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* The consequence *is*, the deficiency is countervailed now in England, as it has long been in Ireland, by a discount, varying according to the demand for guineas; and on the Continent by a higher value bearing a relative proportion to the more or less favourable state of exchange. Is not this a real depreciation in both instances? The Jews and others, did not buy guineas at a low rate, as bad shillings, and old plate to sell again, but they gave in bank-notes the increased amount of discount added to the nominal value of the guineas.—Their real value then is 1*l.* 1*s.* in England, and 1*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* in Ireland, with the addition of the discount, at which they are bought.

"Of what use are guineas or any species of coin, but for the purposes of internal trade?"

The great superiority of guineas over bank-notes is, that in any part of the commercial world, they still retain their value, while out of Great Britain and Ireland, the notes of their national banks, will not pass current, at the value marked on them. The merchants on the exchange at Hamburgh, the British generals and soldiers in Spain, Portugal, and Holland, can answer this question.

"In consequence of the demand for the butter trade of Belfast, guineas bore a higher premium at one time of the month; do you mean to say, that bank-notes were depreciated in value more, &c.?"

Guineas bear a relative proportion to the demand, and if they are required in larger quantities at one period than another, they will bear a higher premium, whether they are used for the purposes of buying butter, or any other article. The writer's wit on "the slippery foundation of butter, and the retrogressive motion," is misplaced. If guineas were more generally used for buying linens, as formerly, an increased demand, would increase the premium, and they rise and fall exactly in the proportion of the demand, which fluctuates according to the circumstances of the market. Wheat is no more intrinsically valuable as an article of usefulness, when it sells at 24*s.* per Cwt. than when it brings 14*s.* It is the ratio of the greater or less demand, and the quantity at market, which fixes the price. C. W's. flashes afford no steady light to guide us through the gloom that attends what some consider the decline of the highly vaunted prosperity of Great Britain.

"Is the almost total silence among commercial men a proof that this depreciation is forcing itself on the public?"

In Ireland there may be a silence on this subject. We have long been familiar to bank notes, bearing a discount; in England, the case is different. The public attention has lately been considerably aroused there, and the unfavourable rate of exchange on the Continent, has caused a considerable alarm, and awakened some considerations, which had hitherto been overlooked. As a proof of the interest the subject has lately excited, reference may be made to the sundry articles, which have latterly appeared on both sides of the question, in the Morning Chronicle, the Times, and Cobbett's Weekly Register.

"What would be the situation of this mercantile nation, if a considerable part of these guineas came to be exported?"

Guineas would not be exported, if they were not more valuable abroad, than when forced to circulate at home, in company with a depreciated paper currency. The fact of attempting to export them, proves their increased value. If this were not the case, bills would answer the purposes of trade, or bank notes would be exported. There is a great and obvious distinction to be made, between bank notes circulating instead of guineas, *and not convertible into specie at the option of the holder*, and the mass of negotiable paper in circulation in the form of bills of exchange, and promissory notes; bank notes form only a part of the system of paper credit. The evils of the present bank-note system are all solvable into the effects of the restriction act, which liberated the banks of England and Ireland from paying their notes in specie. As to the implication of dishonour and deception in the bank, it remains for them or their advocates to adduce sufficient proof to exonerate them from the

charge. They were lately accused in the Morning Chronicle "of diminishing their discounts in the proportion of one to four, previous to laying their annual accounts before parliament, for the purpose of hiding the increase of their issues," which was done at a time, when no avowed premium on gold existed, and the bank directors had no motives to induce them to conceal the depreciation of the circulating medium, although now for the reasons assigned in the letter, they may be more cautious. The assertion publicly made, remains as yet, as far as I have seen, without an attempt to refute it. Many of the bank directors may be fairly presumed to be readers of a paper so generally in circulation in London, as the Morning Chronicle, and if they could, I have no doubt they would repel the charge.

It is a serious and alarming fact, that the bank of England is, by the extravagant loans forced from it by Pitt, and his successors, almost entirely identified with the government; and reflecting men cannot but feel in a state of extreme apprehension, when government set their partners, the bank, free from an obligation to pay their own notes. To what catastrophe such a state of things may lead, is a problem which must be solved sooner or later, according to the more or less favourable circumstances of political and commercial events, and where so much is at stake, precaution and apprehension are more allowable than unsuspecting and unjustifiable confidence.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A TOUR TO MOURNE.

ON the fourth of September, in the company of two friends, I visited *Slieve Donard*, the most eastern elevation of Mourne mountains. We left the utmost pinnacle of its arduous top at half past seven at night, and through a dense mist, in Egyptian darkness under some rain, descended for the space of four hours in a literally crawling attitude, over precipices and cataracts, in the hearing of much and loud thunder, apparently rolling below us, accompanied by the most vivid flashes of lightening we had ever beheld. Drenched in every stitch of our dress, and dyed by the juices of the long and dripping heather of the mountain, mudded and bedaubed by the mossy and spongy parts of its surface; slightly bruised, and much jaded by falling into, and wading through the sloughs and pits towards its bottom; faint and almost exhausted with laborious and aukward exertion, having to travel alternately on our backs, knees, hands and feet, not daring to stand, much less walk erect; cordially grateful for a merciful deliverance, and electrified with joy, we arrived, as at a blissful asylum, at the long looked for village of Newcastle.

This is a small hamlet of little trade, and without market or fair. The houses are neither very correct, regular, nor elegant. It has no house set apart for any description of public worship. This circumstance subjects the inhabitants to the necessity of attending divine service at rather an inconvenient distance, and proves a temptation to live in the neglect of ostensible devotion. It possesses many of the requisites of salubrity, is well supplied with pure fresh water by the rivers that descend from the mountains, sits on a clean strand, is immediately connected with good arable land, of a dry and sandy kind, and enjoys excellent air, from an open shore, and a well cultivated country. Some people of delicate constitutions have established fixed residences here for the sake of the salt water. The inhabitants are partly supported by farming and fishing, but chiefly by accommodating strangers, who resort hither in the bathing season, for recreation and health. This is a pleasant spot, especially in the summer months, and certainly an eligible watering place, being fitly situated as to the shore, and under a sheltering wing of huge Donard. Here is no very public road, no great thoroughfare, and consequently an opportunity of enjoying more than the common retirement of many other villages. Here the friend of tranquillity may recline in the enjoyment of a happy solitude, far removed from the bustle and confusion, the noise and intemperance of great towns. Here may the sickly frame regain that health and vigour which have been lost by the confinement, the smoke and stench of

the city. The number and elevation of the mountains, their magnitude and wilds, contrasted with the extensive view of the shore and ocean; the planting, and cultivated appearance of the adjacent level country, even close to the mountain's foot, heighten the beauty and romantic scenery of the place.

The castle, the present residence of William Beers, esq. is an antique edifice, and in good order. On account of the strength of the currents and of the tides, and the nakedness of the coast, as well as to encourage the fishing and other trade of the place, government are building a quay very convenient to this village, on the eastern side of the mountain. This structure is getting forward, and on its completion, bids fair to be of singular utility on so dangerous a shore. On Donard's side, and at no inconvenient distance, is an excellent quarry, of ready access, and very easily wrought, from which good stones of an immense size, are, with little labour, conveyed down a gently sloping declivity to the quay.

Though Newcastle is not itself conspicuous, being in a low situation, yet its little contiguous eminences command a delightful prospect of the costly improvements in building, and other ornaments both ancient and modern, of Earls Roden and Annesley. Having the highest mountain in Ireland in its immediate neighbourhood, in some directions of no very difficult ascent, there is always an opportunity, in mild and clear weather, of enjoying a large portion of the exalting pleasures of vision. Here, to enrapture the curious eye, is presented from Donard's transcendent top, in a motly group, his concomitant train of inferior mountains, in their difference of height, shape, and size. The mind is filled with awe and pleasure in contemplating their deep cavities and abrupt precipices; the fathomless glens that separate them, their solitude, barrenness, and dreary waste; the howling winds that in tempestuous weather bellow amongst them; the intense frosts, that arrest, bind, and chrystallize the waters of their torrents and cascades; the fleecy snows that, by an abundant fall, smooth all their ruggedness, and load with increasing altitude their towering tops; or whirling and drifted by the surly blast, fill their prodigious chasms, and construct new mountains on their lee and hollow sides.

Here, too, the prospect comprizes an ample extension of sea, curling below the gentle breeze, and glittering beneath the radiance of an unclouded sun; or, in the season of storms, rolling in dark and whelming surges before the mighty blast, drifting the spray from the convex summit of its billows as they press forward in quick succession to be spent on the extensive sandy beach, or dashed to foam against the beetling cliffs. Independent of its beauty in the storm or the calm, this part of the channel exhibits, from day to day, a pleasing specimen of the naval world. Vessels of all dimensions, from the largest full-rigged ship that ploughs the main, to the lightest skiff that scuds over the shallows; Merchantmen, near and distant to view, of various nations, fraught with the necessaries and luxuries of the world, some outward, and some homeward bound, some making more, and others less way, standing to different points of the compass, and presenting different attitudes and phases, as, with full canvas spread to court the propitious gale, they sedulously steer their wonted course through the trackless deep to their several destined ports.

Donard likewise commands an enchanting view of a large share of two provinces of Ireland. From the mountains of Wicklow to the extremity of the northern counties of Ulster, all around Slieve-Gallan, and other inferior mounts, the country appears as one entire plain, a grand champaign, without the distinction of valleys and hills, and where minute objects are lost in distance. To a limited extent the eye is capable of taking up, in proportion to the nearness or distance of the objects, a beautiful variegation of bog and wood, pasturage and crops, of rivers and lakes, of distinguishing the eminences from the intervening hollows, and marking particular buildings and towns. Beyond this limit, the eye, fain to view still more than all this gratifying variety of rural scenery, roams in admiration to the utmost extent of

the powers of vision over remote regions, which, through the dense atmosphere, exhibit a sameness of surface. This visual excursion is not limited to Ireland; it includes in its range the Isle of Man, and passing the channel, surveys a large tract of rising lands on the western coast of Great Britain.

The greatness and novelty of this entire prospect naturally elevate the mind; a croud of thoughts rush upon it. If such are the mountains of Mourne, if such is Donard, what are the Alps! what are the Andes, extending thousands of miles in length, impervious to the foot, and partly beyond the prying researches of man, if not inaccessible to animal existence; of vastly superior altitude, covered with eternal snow, even in the torrid zone, and contiguous to the equator; the source of rich and exhaustless mines, and the origin of the largest rivers in the world; a perpetual monument of the wonders of creation, and of the inscrutable omnipotence of the Creator! If such is Donard's prospect, encircled far within the limits of two or three little islands, what would be that of the globe, which can be viewed but in idea!—what of the planets and satellites that roll in their respective orbits round the sun! and what of those countless suns and systems, which are deemed to occupy the immensity of space! and how overwhelming the contemplation of that Being whose omnipotence, by a simple LET BE, from nothing, formed them all!

The fatigues of our painful descent from the mountain were relieved by a pleasant jaunt on the succeeding day to Castlewellan. On the way we visited Tullamore Park, the site of a country residence of Lord Roden. This place is ornamented both by nature and art. The mansion house has more the appearance of a commodious, neat, and elegant cottage, than of a superb and lofty edifice. It has a lawn and front in three directions, besides an access in the rear to the kitchen and offices. It is not clouded by a too great nearness of plantings; nor is the view intercepted, except in a small degree on the western side. One of the lawns that is bounded by a low wall, should, for more safety and neatness, terminate in a gradually sloping mound of earth. The principal front looks to one elevation of Mourne mountains, over an intervening space, decorated with trees of various kinds and sizes, from the aged stately oak to the shooting twig. These rank along the borders of a beautiful river, or stand in clumps throughout lawns, pleasure grounds, and meadows. Firs, in flourishing growth give a fine aspect to the mountain's steep and rugged face, as they ascend it, in rows at regular distances from each other, in towering eminence amongst natural wood and heath. The river, shaded by the overhanging timber, twisted in various directions, falling over precipices, and beds of jutting rocks, pressing through deep cuts between enormous stones, presents gratifying miniature pictures of the torrent and the cascade; admits, at intervals, through the shade, an enlivening ray of the sun to beam upon it; and from its channel affords an occasional peep of the mountains, of the tract where it descends, and of the sea into which it hastens to be disembogued.

The eastern front overlooks a gentle declivity of considerable extent to the sea, and commands a sidelong prospect of desert mountains skirted at the bottom with a fertile valley. The plantings, verdant pasture, and yellow crops, which clothe the vale; the winding river by which it is intersected, present an entertaining scenery when viewed in contrast with the height, the bold prominence, the dark countenance, and brown heath of the mountains. The finger-posts, that mark distances and direct to the various curiosities of the Park, the artificial seats erected to suit the best views, display the good taste of the former noble owner, the late Earl of Clanbrassil, and silently intimate a kindly welcome to the visiting stranger. A remarkable one of these seats is placed, as in a bower, under the shade of an aged, and widely spreading thorn; it is a kind of chair, chiseled out of a hard granite, fit to accommodate three persons, who seated thereon, enjoy the view alluded to in the following lines, which in legible characters and rough sculpture,

are engraven upon the inside of its back,

"Here in full light the russet plains extend,
There, wrapt in clouds, the bluish hills ascend,
Even the wild heath displays her purple dyes,
And 'midst the desart, fruitful fields arise."

The occasional howl of the kennel, and lowing of the oxen, the wild melody of the birds that warble in the grove, the murmur and hoarse noise of the river, the distant roar of the tides over the bar of Dundrum, the repeating echoes, united with the solitude of the place, communicate, by their mingled discordance and harmony the delights of nature's music to the listening ear. The visitant of curiosity and taste, must, with reluctance, withdraw from the varied entertainment of this entire enclosure.

Very convenient to one of the outer gates that lead to the mansion, stands the small village of Bryan'sford. We halted for a few minutes in passing through this place. The principal characteristic features that struck us, were a few houses tolerably good, occupied by civil people, who seem to dwell in retirement; and some improvements in building, a complete set of new livery stables, upon a large scale, connected with an elegant house, said to be intended for an inn.

A continuation of the jaunt brought us to Castlewellan. This town is in a conspicuous situation, though partly environed by mountains. It is seated on a high ground, and yet has an easy and almost level approach to it in all directions, excepting one. The road from Dublin by Newry to Downpatrick, immediately from this place descends a long and steep hill. A late alteration which is nearly completed, will remedy this evil.—This town has some considerable fairs throughout the year, and a good market on mondays. It is much improven of late by the fostering patronage of its present proprietor, Earl Annesley. It has a commodious and roomy market-house, placed almost in the centre of a dry, clean, and spacious market-place. The houses are good, uniform, and compactly seated. They rank in a straight line on one side of the street, and form a kind of imperfect semicircle on the other. Here is a public bakery, a tolerably good flesh-market, and a respectable inn: of consequence the traveller needs to be in want of neither meat nor drink. From an adjoining inexhaustible fountain there flows, close by the town, pure and wholesome water, in such abundance as to furnish a sufficient stock for bleaching no inconsiderable quantity of brown linens every year. This water issuing from a lake amongst the mountains, runs nearly to the town, and thence directly down the face of the hill already described, so as effectually to supply the greens, and different mills seated thereon, with very little inconvenience or cost to their owners.

A small congregation of Seceders, assisted by the marked friendship of the landlord, and careful superintendance of their worthy minister, have here built a decent meeting-house.—The parish church being some miles out of town, the erection of a chapel of ease is said to be in contemplation. Owing to some peculiarity of the late Lord Annesley, this town though in a Catholic country, was formerly inhabited only by Protestants; Catholics were discouraged, if not prohibited from establishing any settled residence in it. New ground has been laid out for building upon encouraging terms, and they in common with others, have taken tenements, and are now making improvements. General sobriety, harmony, and a genteel taste, characterize the inhabitants of this place.

Buildings in the form of an oblong square, comprehending very large stables, and other offices, well known by the name of the Grange, stand in a western direction, at a small distance from Castlewellan. The cow-house is fifty-seven yards long, the barn is ninety feet long, by fifty-four wide. These may be considered as a permanent memento, at least in one item of the expenditure and taste of Lord Glerawley. Near these, on the borders of the lake previously alluded to, and exactly at the foot of Slieve-na-slat mountain, a cottage of superb splendour has been lately erected by the present Earl. Skill and taste, seem to have dictated the situ-

ation, construction, and concomitant appendages of this mansion. The garden formed on the lower part of the mountain's southern face, and under its prominent brow, enjoys the genial warmth of the summer sun, in perfect security from the blighting nip of the northern blast. Its enclosed ground is cast by the moulding hand of nature into a hollow shape with collateral ridges to produce shelter, and serve as a kind of focus to the solar rays. The cottage is convenient to the Dublin road, and yet in retirement from its thoroughfare, as well as from the hurry of the town. It commands a view of the lake, a private circular road of pleasure, that surrounds it, together with the contiguous mountains, and fertile fields.

Nature and art have united to leave it at no point exposed to storms. Permitted to take a transient glance of its interior, we presume to observe, that, with the exception of a kitchen upon too limited a scale, it seems to be well laid out. The decoration of the walls and ceiling exhibits masterly execution; the apartments are more than sufficiently lofty for the design of a cottage, the furniture is of the best quality, and so far as we could judge, of the first fashion. In a niche of the wall, outside, and fronting the lake, as well as the adjoining cultivated grounds, stands a large and beautiful statue of the goddess Ceres, holding in her hands the emblems of her goddesship.

An ornamental temple is at present in building, immediately between the cottage and the garden, and so far up Slieve-na-Slat, as to command a fine prospect of the entire northern side of Mourne mountains, the Irish sea, a large extent of coast, with a considerable portion of the fruitful barony of Lecale. The workmen at this structure stated it as intended to be raised in stone and wood, to the height of eighty-two feet, to be furnished with music bells, and other tasteful ornaments of a pleasure-house. The interior decorations of this temple, however beautiful and grand they may be, will be far surpassed by the beauties placed within the range of its view. In its immediate rear, are a wood of native hazel, annually loaded with nuts, and a mountain clad in blooming heath, in eminence soaring far above its boasted height. Under its foot are the garden, with all its varieties on this side, and the cottage with all its perfection on that. Before it, here, are the snug village, the public road, and the bustling market; there, the neat cabin of the industrious peasant, his cultivated fields and browsing flocks, the curious and costly edifice of the noble lord, with all its accompanying refined improvements and rich demesne, the flourishing, and the ruined castle, the lofty dome and humble cot. Yonder, the ocean expands with all its varied exhibition in the sunshine and the shade, the calm and the tempest. Yonder too, stand on immoveable bases, romantic mountains hiding the summits of their exalted cones amongst the clouds, seated by nature's hand above this nether world, and much beyond the limited ken of man.

At Castlewellan I parted with my companions, and here for the present, ends the tour. S.E.

Ballinahinch.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ON reading an Account of Strabane, in the Magazine for October, I was surprized to observe a mistatement of a fact which had about four years ago been stated at considerable length in the Belfast News-Letter, and stands to this day uncontradicted. The writer of the article in question says, that "every well-wisher to his country, in the province of Ulster, venerates the names of Henry and Robert Joy, the founders of much of the wealth and prosperity of Belfast," this being coupled with the writer's remarks on the character of Mr. Ross, implies as much as that Henry and Robert Joy were the introducers of the Cotton Manufacture into Belfast, which in respect to Henry Joy is erroneous, as he was not concerned in the commencement of the business. Thomas M'Cabe and Robert Joy being the persons, who, contrary to the opinion of some, and without the pecuniary assistance of any other, had the first spinning jenny, and the first carding engine, made at their own expense; and were

the first to attempt the establishment of the business.

When I read the paragraph alluded to, I did conceive that a degree of injustice had been done to Thomas M'Cabe, by his name being sunk in the history of a transaction which is much to his honour; and thought I recollected reading a statement in the News-Letter, about the period of the death of Nicholas Grimshaw, which took rise from some of Mr. Grimshaw's panegyrists attributing to him the merit of introducing the cotton manufacture into Ireland. I therefore this day called on the editor of that paper, who showed me the publication, where a full statement is made of the facts. The purport of this letter, is to suggest to you the propriety of setting the matter on its proper foundation, by republishing in the next number that statement which may be found in the paper of date 7th May, 1805.

I have two reasons for suggesting the re-publication of the article, justice to a highly worthy and respectable individual, and that a circumstance which so nearly concerns the town of Belfast, and the cotton manufacture of Ireland, should not be allowed to be hidden in an old newspaper, but be committed to a work of more permanence, and as such in my mind no article can be more suitable to the Belfast Magazine. I have a Belfast Almanack of the year 1803 before me, in which it is stated that the Poor-house "may be considered as the cradle of the cotton manufacture, it being in it that Thomas M'Cabe and the late Robert Joy, in 1777, set their first carding-engine and spinning jennies to work," where they were kept going for many years for the benefit of the Poor. I am, your obedient servant. D.

Belfast, 7th Nov. 1809.

Authentic History of the Introduction of the Cotton Machinery into Ulster; from the Belfast News-Letter, May 1st, 1805.

"So early as the year 1777, on a tour through North Britain, the late Robert Joy conceived the scheme of introducing into this then desponding kingdom the more intricate branches of the Cotton manufacture, which had proved unfailing sources of industry and opulence to the sister country. To this he was principally prompted by a desire to render service to the lower orders of the working poor, particularly linen weavers and spinners, whose livelihoods are often rendered precarious, when a nation depends, as ours then did, almost solely on a single manufacture, sometimes as much depressed as at others prosperous*."

Having in conjunction with Thomas M'Cabe, suggested that the spinning of Cotton-yarn, might, as an introductory step, be a fit and profitable employment for children in the Belfast Poor House; several of them were accordingly set to work on the common wheel; but the various machinery in England giving that country so great a superiority, it was found that no benefit could be gained without the introduction of it here.

A spinning machine was therefore made in Belfast, at *their* instance and expense, under the direction of Mr. N. Grimshaw, cotton and linen printer, from England, who had some time before settled in this country. And shortly after an experienced spinner was brought over by Mr. Joy from Scotland to instruct the children in the house. Also under the same direction, and at the expense of the gentlemen mentioned, a carding machine was erected, to go by water, at Mr. Grimshaw's, which was afterwards removed to the Poor-house, and wrought by hand.

After Messrs. Joy and M'Cabe had in vain solicited the co-operation and pecuniary aid of others, in prosecuting a scheme fraught with such national advantage, they proposed a transfer of their machinery at first cost to the managers of the Charitable Institution, promising as strict attention to the success of the measure as if the emolument were to be their own.

On the refusal of the Committee to run the risk of a new undertaking, the original proprietors formed

* Extract from an account of the death of the late Mr. Robert Joy, Dublin Evening Post, April 1785, when the general facts contained in this paper were recent.

themselves into a company, with additional partners, under the firm of Joys, M'Cabe, and M'Cracken, and contracted with the same charitable institution, for the employment of a number of its children, as well as for the use of their vacant rooms. They dispatched a skilful mechanic to England, who at personal risk and considerable expense, procured a minute knowledge of the most improved British machinery, which the inventors and proprietors intended to have kept a secret both from this and foreign countries. On his return they erected a new carding machine of superior structure to the first imperfect one, and a spinning jenny, of 72 spindles, then reckoned a large one, differing materially in its construction from the other.

In a memorial to the Dublin Society, praying for aid, from which the substance of this statement of facts is principally extracted, they informed the board, that so far from confining their hopes of gain to themselves, they had encouraged the public to avail itself of their discoveries. They had exposed their machinery to open view, permitted numbers, even from distant parts, to be taught in their apartments, without any charge for such indulgence; and promoted the progress of the manufacture of Cottons, Dimities, and Marseilles quilting, equally by example and instruction.

The magnitude of those improvements at the time is now to be estimated by comparison. Prior to this, from 8 to 10 cuts per day were the scanty produce of the most laborious spinner on the common wheel, while in the same time not more than a single pound could be carded by hand. On their Jenny of 72 spindles, 72 Irish hanks were spun weekly, an increase of 14 to one. And by their carding machine, twenty pounds of rovings were daily thrown off, an increase of twenty to one. These exertions were in time followed, on an enlarged scale, by Messrs. Nat. Wilson and Nich. Grimshaw, both since deceased. To the talents, property, and adventurous spirit of the former of these two gentlemen, and to the practical knowledge, genius, and industry of the latter, this country stands very highly indebted.

The first mill for spinning twist by water in Ireland, was built by them in the year 1784, from which date the Irish Cotton manufactures were considered firmly established.

In the year 1800, only twenty-three years from the origin of the enterprize by Joy and M'Cabe, it appeared in evidence before Parliament, that the Cotton manufactures which they had thus introduced, gave employment to 13,500 working people, and including all manner of persons occupied in various ways, to twenty-seven thousand, within a circuit of only ten miles, but comprehending within its bounds the towns of Belfast and Lisburn.

It deserves remark, that as far as machinery is concerned, a Poor-house was the cradle of the cotton trade of Ireland; and that the detail now given should be a stimulus to the exertions of every individual, it demonstrates how much may be effected by a limited capital and ardent zeal.

In the present instance, the early introduction of a manufacture, already of immense and increasing importance, has been traced to the perseverance of two members of society, actuated by a wish to create useful employment for unfortunate infants; to assist the working classes, at a time when the Linen manufacture was in its most depressed state, and to render a permanent benefit to the community at large.

Whoever wishes to inquire further into the subject, may see an original document, which is left at the Belfast News-Letter Printing Office; they are also referred to the Memorial itself to the Dublin Society, and to minutes in the books of the Belfast Charitable Society.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

SCOTCH LAW AND POLITENESS.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following narrative is deemed worthy a place in your valuable Magazine, you are at liberty to insert it; you may rely on its veracity; I

shall "nought extenuate, nor aught set down in malice."

In April, 1801, I had the honour to return from Edinburgh to Ireland in company with Mr. C——, on board a pleasure-boat, the property of that gentleman. We embarked at Leith, and on arriving at the entrance of the canal that connects the firths of Clyde and Forth, it was necessary to engage a driver and a pair of horses to drag the boat along the canal; a man having offered his services for this purpose, Mr. C. immediately agreed with him, and he engaged to come on the following morning at six o'clock; he did not, however, arrive at the hour appointed; and after waiting for him until eight o'clock, another man was employed, who had not proceeded one mile with the boat until the person first employed made his appearance, and demanded permission to attach his horses to the boat; this was peremptorily refused, reminding him, that he had violated his agreement by not coming at the appointed time; he then insisted on being paid the stated sum, as he had lost his day's work in consequence of a person being egaged in his place: this Mr. C—— also very properly refused. He then threatened to apply to a magistrate (for what he was pleased to term redress) and left us laughing at his threats, not conceiving that any person in a commission of the peace would grant an attachment on the bare statement of such a fellow; but in this we were disagreeably disappointed, for on arriving half along the canal, the driver, in company with two bailiffs, stepped into the boat, and arrested Mr. C—, under an attachment granted by Justice H. of K————s. Mr. C. refused to pay the driver, and demanded to be taken to the magistrate, which was complied with. I and two other gentlemen went with Mr. C. and after a march of two miles, reached the house of Justice H. He met us as he came round the corner of his pig-stye, surrounded by a number of hungry swine—(what a figure for the pencil of Hogarth.) Picture to yourself a man about fifty years of age, five feet eight inches high, pale, pock-marked, and cadaverous, dressed in a blue home-spun coat, and grey waistcoat with long flaps, a pair of dirty white leather small-clothes, jack boots (ten years at least old) newly greased on the occasion, a bay wig that had long defied the barber to make any further repairs on. In short, imagine ignorance and vulgarity personified, and you see this great autocrat of K——s. He saluted us with "Weel, wha are yee?" "I am," said Mr. C. "the person against whom you have granted an attachment, and I am convinced, on investigating the affair, you will immediately supercede it." "I dinna ken that, for why you no pii the mon his money!" "Because I have no right to do so, the man having violated his agreement, and not performed his work." "Yie are all a domed Irish Compaction!!! and I'll he nething to de wei yee—tak them awaa to Sir Wulliam, and he wul sort them." "I request, Sir, that as you have granted the order, you will investigate the affair, delay here being attended with much inconvenience to me." "I he ne time, for I am gawn awa to Gleasgow, and the truck boat is waiting, and gane I shud miss it, I wud be te hire a chee, and that wud be o' mere consequence than keepen you here this fortnight; and besides my breakfast is waitin—tak them awaa; I say agane yee are all a dam'd compaction."

After this polite and eloquent conversation, he disappeared round the corner of his house, followed by his hungry swine, who appeared as anxious for their breakfast as their lordly master, and in my opinion deserved it much better.

We were now conducted two miles further to the house of Sir William ——. This gentleman did not honour us with a sight of his presence, he being at breakfast, but kindly ordered us to wait in his hall, without a seat to sit on, and after having detained us one hour, he changed his mind, and would have nothing to do in the affair, but ordered us to be taken to Mr. C—d—l's, at Carron Foundery. This was nearly two miles further, and we were marched to it through the town of Falkirk, to the great entertainment of the Scotch multitude. We were informed at the house of Mr. C—d—l, that he was also at breakfast,

and ordered to remain in the lawn before the door, though raining, which we did for one hour. We were then admitted to the hall, and a consultation held in an adjoining room by the driver, the bailiffs and the justices which terminated in a message to Mr. C. to pii the mon his siller or go to jail. Mr. C. said he would not pay one farthing, and he would submit to go to jail, but he would not hesitate to spend some thousand pounds to punish all concerned in this most illegal and unjust proceeding. This seemed to stagger the justice, and all concerned were admitted into his office, when they were examined on oath; and though it was perfectly clear that the arrest was unjust and illegal, yet it was about to be determined in favour of the driver, when a young man who was present, (and who I afterwards learned was the son of Mr. C—d—l) reminded his father that Mr. C. and his party appeared to be respectable people, and that the driver was to his knowledge a rogue, having robbed him at one time of a quantity of oats, for which he was dismissed his service. This appeared to have most weight, and the complainant was nonsuited, and obliged to pay the expenses;—what shame must these gentlemen feel, when they are informed that Mr. C. is a gentleman of the most amiable manners, the strictest honour, and that he possesses a handsome landed property in Ireland, and is at present a member of the Imperial parliament.

S. D. S.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE COURT OF JUNO....A VISION.

(Continued from No. XV.

A LONG walk after a sea voyage, with the excellence of the entertainment, might have excused an extended meal; but the goddess of beauty was not to be seen on common terms; I could think of nothing but the divine hand to which my lips had been so lately pressed, and the elegant and varied feast had passed, perhaps, unnoticed, had not a reluctance to discover the feelings that absorbed my mind, excited me to an effort to conceal them, and I partook of the repast more from this view than from appetite. But the ladies made ample amends for my deficiency, for they ate well, and drank still better, while the lively jest and reiterated laugh was mingled with their flowing cups.

When they had sufficiently indulged in this way, one of them mentioned, that their company for the evening was by this time assembled, and proposed that we should join them. On inquiring of whom the company consisted, the same lady informed me, that it was their custom to spend the evenings in the society of the captives who happened to be on the island; that those of superior rank, education, or accomplisments, alone were admitted to the palace; but that the rest had such parties of a similar nature in different parts of the island, and such associates as best suited their tastes. Immediately on this she arose, and proceeded, accompanied by the rest, into a spacious apartment, furnished and ornamented with the same elegance as those already described, and splendidly illuminated, in which a number of gentlemen of all nations were assembled in groupes, conversing with ladies who had not been of our party.

After some time spent in this manner, the appearance of musicians, with various instruments, entering a small gallery at the lower end of the apartment, and the separation of the groupes towards the sides, indicated the approach of some other entertainment; and accordingly when the middle of the apartment was sufficiently cleared, a large pair of folding doors were opened at one of its sides, and a number of young beauties entered, arrayed in the dresses of the Otaheitan females, and performed several of the dances of that country with much gracefulness and activity.

To describe the nature or effect of these dances is needless, after the minute accounts which have been given of them in the various voyages to the South sea islands, which have been already published. It is enough to observe, that they seemed to give the utmost satisfaction to the beholders. These dances continued a considerable time; and at last the dancers retired with general applause.

Every minute I anxiously expected the divine mistress of the palace to make her appearance, but finding this did not take place after so long an interval, I inquired from one of the ladies, who looked somewhat less volatile, and more intelligent than the rest, whether we might expect to have the pleasure of seeing their beautiful queen that evening?

She replied, that the goddess, by that time was far on her way towards England, where she had set out directly on leaving her throne, in order to be present at the opening of a new temple for her worship, which was erected on the site of the ancient play-house in Covent Garden. I begged her excuse, in supposing she must be mistaken as to the nature of the building she mentioned, which I had the best authority for stating to be only a new play-house, on a grander scale than that which had been burned. At this she smiled, and said there was no contradiction in the building being both a temple of Venus and a play-house, and that when it was finished, I should see it more resembled a temple externally than a theatre; that besides this the goddess had an entire range of the boxes fitted up as so many distinct chapels, each furnished with its proper *penetralia*, or *adytum*, under the care of either a priest or priestess of her order.

Surprized that the goddess should have taken so much pains in making her worship public and conspicuous, so contrary to her usual policy, I could not forbear expressing my wonder to my fair informer; who made this answer in return.

"I know not whether I am not in some degree guilty of a breach of confidence in revealing to you the secret plans of my mistress; but after the free manner in which she deigned to speak to you on similar subjects this day, I may venture, I believe, to dismiss my scruples: know, then, that the design of Venus in this proceeding, is of a much deeper nature than appears at first view. You know her devotedness to the French interest, and her enmity to Britain; this measure is designed to serve her views in two ways, one of which is not quite certain, but the other is so sure that it is already in operation. In a country where all the offices of importance, as well as those of an inferior nature, are disposed of to rank and interest, without much consideration of the merit or qualifications of those to whom they are given, the safety of the state must in a peculiar manner depend on the conduct of the nobility and of the higher orders, who either directly or indirectly command in every department: Now, if these nobles and men in power have their thoughts decidedly devoted to meretricious intrigues and sensuality, the neglect of the interests of the nation entrusted to them, must ensue, absolutely from the abstraction of their attention in the first place, and in the second place, their various interests being directed to their own low gratifications, instead of to the service of their country, all the different departments beneath them will be filled up from the ill-judged solicitations of their mistresses, and of course by those most likely to cause those blunders and delays which will make the best planned expeditions nugatory. The arrangements of the new theatre are admirably calculated to facilitate intrigues of the above nature, and particularly those which destroy domestic harmony, and tend to bring the marriage state into contempt. Thus before long, the whole of the upper ranks who command the country, becoming corrupt, and devoted to sensual gratifications alone, their minds depraved, and their intellects dwindled to that low ebb which such modes of life never fail to produce, Cytherea supposes the country cannot fail to fall a prey to its more enlightened and vigilant neighbour, who pursues the contrary system of filling all his offices of consequence from merit alone. This is the direct and more certain mode in which this plan is intended to operate, and its success may be judged of by that of one of a similar kind, tried on an exalted individual not long since, the event of which is fresh in every one's recollection. The more oblique and less certain part of the plan, consists in the hope the goddess possesses, that the mass of the English people seeing their opinions of religion and morality openly insulted by this wanton and public display of the profligacy of

the upper ranks, and seeing for what purposes their hard-earned property is extorted from them, and for what employments the business of the nation is neglected, will be roused to some rash and frantic display of their indignation, and afford a season of universal confusion, when their politic enemy may make his long premeditated attack with the best chance of success. But this last hope is not well judged; such commotions produce energies sometimes which baffle all calculation, and defeat the best-laid plans of the deepest politicians; and Cytherea should have learned, from similar scenes not many years since acted in France, to be less sanguine of success to her views in exciting them. You will observe, added she, in what I have said, that I have adopted many expressions to your notions of propriety; what my own are may be best known by the service in which I am engaged; though in it I must observe, I violate no sacred engagements, nor destroy the peace of families for my trivial pleasures. But I protest I find I am moralizing in a place no way calculated for it; my gay companions all say I am too grave for my employment; but, poor girls, they know not the whole of it, or they would think otherwise.

With this mysterious observation, and a deep sigh, she rose up, as if to give some directions to the attendants, and disappeared among the croud; and though I much wished to renew a conversation, so interesting both for its matter and singularity, and its contrast to the others going forward all around me, and sought for her frequently in the company, I could not again find her.

The musicians again began to tune their instruments, and the company separated to the sides of the apartment as before; the folding doors were again thrown open, and seven lovely females of the most elegant symmetry of form, gracefully entered; they were arrayed in every respect as the much famed dancing girls of India, and for a long time displayed in their appropriate dances, all the various outlines of beauty of which the human form is capable. Those dances have been described in the pages of the ancients as well as the moderns; in the time of the republic they were exhibited at Rome, and have an antiquity even beyond that of this renowned city; these accounts of them, in some respects perhaps too minute, and in others not a little exaggerated, make any farther statement relative to them here superfluous.

I had for some time observed a group seated in one corner of the apartment, who, from their repeated fits of laughter seemed to be so merry, that I only waited for the end of the dance to join them, supposing I could not fail of meeting entertainment among so much mirth. On approaching them I was somewhat startled at observing several of the ladies seated on the knees of the gentlemen; for though, on reflection, the place might well excuse those freedoms, yet they had hitherto preserved so much decorum in their actions, that I did not before find it necessary to recollect where I was, to account for any thing I saw done. The sense of propriety or impropriety of actions, as to their modesty, is early imbibed, and each country fixes an imaginary standard in this respect, of which the variation from the others, is often singular, and sometimes not a little laughable. One of the southern voyagers relates, that his boat's crew once surprized a number of female savages, sporting without any covering, in a shallow part of the sea, near the shore, who seemed as much shocked as European ladies could have been at the rencounter, and seated themselves immediately up to their necks in the water, to hide their persons, till one of their comrades on the shore threw each of them their only dress, which was nothing more but a fringe of long grass fastened to a sort of belt, which they tied round their middles under the water, and then exposed themselves to view without farther reluctance. Besides this fact, and others of a similar nature, I actually recollect having seen, in my travels through a civilized island in the northern parts of the Atlantic ocean, young ladies of unsullied reputation, seated in the same manner as above-mentioned in a public company, and, I believe, with

perfect innocence; yet still such was the force of early prejudice, that I had to recollect all those matters in succession before I could reconcile myself to an apparent breach of decorum, even in Paphos, to which I had not been accustomed. That the ladies of the Court of Cytherea might be allowed those liberties, will not be disputed, nor indeed can there be any fair criterion of their innocence but custom: Yet still the policy of a virtuous female, in making her person too cheap, may be much doubted. If the freedoms, which ought to be the reward of a tender and honourable attachment, are made indiscriminate, what is there left before marriage to show the sense of approbation of a real lover: and would not even the least scrupulous of those sigh to think on receiving so great a favour from his mistress, that he had such good reason to doubt of its being any proof of her affection.

On joining the merry company I met with a fresh surprize; for though the laughter still continued, I could not understand any of the jokes, though I strove to do so with my utmost attention. One of the ladies seemed much more witty than the rest, for every thing she said caused two fits of laughter, one after the good thing was said, and the other before. I was in hopes, by fixing my whole attention on such apparent brilliancy, I might be able to comprehend at least one sentence; but in this I was equally unsuccessful; and of all that was said and laughed at I could only understand an observation of one of the young gentlemen, on the uselessness and absurdity of profound thought, which was much applauded; but he looked as if he spoke merely to please his audience, and that thought was not quite as much his aversion as he affected to profess.

My embarrassment was great at being unable to join in the conversation, and at losing so many witty observations for want of sufficient penetration; for doubtlessly they must have been very witty, or they would not have excited so much laughter. I was, however, soon relieved from this unpleasant state, by the company retiring to large sideboards, placed in recesses of the apartment, which were covered with wines, liqueurs, fruits, jellies, and sweet cakes; where the ladies drank freely, particularly of the liqueurs; and indeed I had observed through the whole evening, that they had made continual visits to the sideboards for the same purpose, so that I wondered they had not began to exhibit some effects of such reiterated indulgences.

After the company were sufficiently refreshed, they again returned to their seats; the music played some lively Spanish airs, and several gentlemen of that nation, who were among the captives, took out the ladies who sat next them and danced fandangos, with great spirit. These were succeeded by a party of French gentlemen who danced cotillions with another set of ladies, with much gracefulness. After this some Scotch gentlemen with their partners danced reels with wonderful vigour and agility. The whole company then arose, and all joined in dancing German waltzes, which seemed to be the dances they most preferred, by the evident delight which appeared in every countenance. On comparing the Otaheitan and Indian dances with this last, much as has been said and written of their indelicacy, I could not but join heartily in the opinion of them expressed in the writings of a gentleman* who had resided much in the East; "that all the movements and attitudes of the Indian dancer's appeared infinitely more graceful, and far less indecent than those in a German waltz. He farther observes that "the dances in India are admirably calculated to set off an elegant figure to the highest advantage; and notwithstanding the warm and animated descriptions which have been given of the indelicacy and voluptuousness of Eastern dances, many of them appeared to him wholly unobjectionable." This latter opinion would perhaps require some qualification, at least those dances exhibited by the ladies of Paphos were not of this innocent description.

* Edward Scott Waring, esq. of the Bengal establishment.

Not finding any inclination to join in the waltzes, or much amusement in looking at them, from the first I wished to leave the apartment; which desire was much encreased by the scenes that followed; for the potent libations of the ladies to Bacchus, having began to operate, decency of manners, was gradually abandoned, and a degree of gross indelicacy accompanied with noise and riot succeeded, which was highly disgusting to any sober person. I could not help reflecting how much the most abandoned women lost by indelicacy and what false estimates they formed of the feelings of men, in supposing they made themselves more agreeable by a total dereliction of modesty; if they felt it not, policy should at least induce them to affect it; for of this excellence it may be truly said that even the affectation of it is a virtue.

I now sought earnestly for an opportunity to retire unobserved from scenes, which every moment grew more disagreeable; which was not very difficult, as the whole company were engaged in the waltzes, except three Pachas, who were taken on their way from Stamboul to the provinces, and five merchants from Bussira, who were all seated cross-legged on low sophas at the farther end of the apartment. I cautiously approached the door by which I entered, and watching a favourable moment of encreased riot, slipped out without any one perceiving me, and after traversing various long passages faintly lighted, and crossing some spacious apartments, again found myself in the hall of audience, where I before had the pleasure of beholding the queen of beauty.

The moon shone brightly through the lofty windows, I beheld the couch where the embodied perfection had reclined, and stretching myself on it indulged in pleasing recollections of the inimitable charms which had so lately pressed the down on which I lay. How wonderful are the pleasures of imagination! which could thus render the images of memory superior to realities, and produce more delightful sensations from remembered excellence than from the actual view of the beauties I had left, which though inferior to their mistress, were still of exquisite elegance.

A delightful calm succeeded to the riot I had left, which was only heard afar off, like the murmurings of the ocean on a rocky shore, and rendered my present state more agreeable by the contrast; and a succession of the most pleasing ideas continued to pass through my mind for a considerable time, when this state of happy repose was suddenly interrupted by deep groans at a distance, at first they seemed the effect of imagination, but on hearing them repeated more distinctly, I arose and proceeded towards the sound, which led again to the long passages, that surrounded the palace; stopping frequently to listen; the increasing distinctness of the sound brought me to the head of a long staircase of marble; and after descending many steps, on proceeding towards a light, which appeared at some distance, I suddenly found myself in one of the wards of an extensive hospital, and perceived that the groans, I had heard, proceeded there from the sufferings of some of the wretched females who lay extended on the bed of misery; several kind ladies appeared attending the afflicted, and benignantly doing every thing in their power to soothe their wo; in which good offices they were so earnestly engaged, that I had proceeded far into the apartment before I was noticed. Among the chief of those benevolent ladies, I soon recognised her who disappeared so suddenly from my side in the apartment of assembly. They all seemed embarrassed at seeing a visitor among them, but speedily my former acquaintance addressed me, and expressed her wonder at my leaving the chambers of mirth to visit the abode of affliction. I informed her that my coming there was entirely accidental, and that my leaving the company was principally occasioned by finding the frame of my mind at that time unsuited to the boisterous merriment they were engaged in; hoped she was not displeased at my intrusion, and requested she would satisfy my curiosity, as to the nature of the establishment I there beheld.

She replied, "that the unhappy

sufferers around me, had been not long since the most distinguished for their extreme vivacity, and even for their beauty (little as was the appearance of it then) among the attendants of their queen; but that from their excessive imprudence, and intemperance, particularly in an unlimited indulgence in intoxicating liquors, they laboured under the various distempers, which were always more or less the consequence of such practises; and that their queen had provided this retreat for their relief, which was principally under her care." She then pointed out some of the most remarkable cases of the afflicted, among which she enumerated dropsy, convulsions of various sorts, palsy, gout, acute rheumatism, consumption, and many other frightful disorders, the catalogue of which was closed by the worst and most humiliating of maladies, madness and idiotism. On expressing my surprize that most of the complaints there should be those, which are attributed to intemperance; she observed, that she left it to others to account for the circumstance, but of the fact there could be no doubt; that women when they threw off the the restraints of propriety almost invariably indulged to excess in strong liquors, and that to this source even more than to their thoughtless imprudence, most of the misery which they suffered of every description might be traced.

By this time the day began to dawn, and impatient to continue my route, I requested my kind conductress to procure my dismissal as soon as possible; she said that I might go that day, either by one of the vessels of the island, or in a Felucca, the crew of which had been permitted to depart the day before. I preferred the latter conveyance, and had a guide sent with me to the port nearest Delos, with orders to the captain of the Felucca to convey me there without delay; I then took leave of the ladies, and soon arrived at the port, where I found the Felucca weighing her anchor.

I went aboard with the Captain without delay, the large latteen sails, were immediately unfurled, and we soon advanced with considerable rapidity. The wind being favourable, before many hours we saw the island to which we were bound, at a great distance covered with clouds, which seemed to adhere to it with a force which the wind could not overcome.

On approaching the island we found that its coast consisted of rocky precipices which rose perpendicularly from the ocean, and rendered all access impossible, except at one narrow inlet, at each side of which a strong fort furnished with formidable batteries commanded the entrance; which was farther secured by a copper chain that extended from side to side a little way in. As soon as we came within hearing, a female, armed with a short coat of mail and helmet, appeared on the rampart of the nearest fort, with a speaking trumpet of a peculiar construction in her hand, through which, with a voice as distinct as if we were close beside her, she first ordered us to cast anchor between the forts; and then desired to know what brought us there. The captain informed her that he was ordered to land a passenger with dispatches for Juno, who he was informed was then on the island. He was then ordered to wait for a reply. On looking towards the fort we observed a telegraph put in motion, and in about a quarter of an hour, the same female again appeared, and said she had received orders from Minerva who directed the defence of the island, to admit the passenger alone, and then to dismiss the vessel instantly.

The boat was immediately lowered down, and two seamen were sent to put me ashore: when we got near the chain I expected they would have passed under it, as it was about four feet above the water, but they stopped on their oars, with great token of fear of touching it, which I could not then account for, till it was lowered to the bottom by those within the fort; they then passed in, landed me in a very convenient wharf, from which a flight of granite stairs rose to the top of the precipices, and instantly departed. I had only time in ascending the steps to observe that the chain was connected with

a thick copper bar, that ran along the face of the precipice at both sides as far as I could see, a few feet above the level of the water, and that other similar bars lay parallel to it at equal distances, before a number of females armed in the same manner as her we had already seen, appeared descending the steps; I met them on a spacious landing place, and was conducted by them to the top, where two apparently of superior rank from the greater magnificence of their armour, were waiting to receive me.

They inquired in a polite manner whether I would prefer to rest in the fort a while, or to proceed at once to the palace of their mistress, and on informing them that I would chuse rather to go on to the palace, they ordered a carriage to be brought out directly to convey me: which appeared almost as soon as it was ordered. It was formed something like the ancient chariots, but much lighter, and had two open seats, one of which was more elevated and placed behind the other.

The wheels were of a very peculiar construction, each spoke of them consisting of a semicircular spring; the whole was finished with the most perfect workmanship, and the ornaments seemed even more valuable for the art with which they were formed than for their materials, though they were made of massy silver. Two of the finest horses I ever saw, were attached to it by a harness of a peculiar kind, so light and well contrived, that their motions seemed as free as if they were at liberty. One of the ladies ascended the front seat to drive, and the other did me the honour to sit on the upper seat with me. The road was perfectly smooth, a little rounded, and wound so among the hills as not to depart perceptibly from a level. Nothing could exceed the ease of the vehicle, the springs in the wheels made the road almost imperceptible to feeling, and seemed to render the draft so facile, that the horses appeared scarcely to need any effort for their rapid pace.

The country as we advanced was covered with a profusion of the richest herbage, on which innumerable herds of cattle and flocks of sheep appeared either grazing or at rest; its surface was finely varied into hill and dale; numerous orchards were seen loaded with fruits of all sorts; many fine fields of corn of every species appeared a little way off almost ripe for the sickle, and fields of flax, and plantations of cotton were observable in many places. The distant hills were covered with luxuriant forests of oak, beech, chestnut and cedar; and over all some mountains were seen whose towering heads were lost in the clouds; on every side brooks of rapid water appeared meandering among the meadows, from which various little canals were cut, which admitted the water to the herbage, and kept it in perpetual verdure. The air felt invigorating and animating above all I had ever experienced, and every thing around seemed to inspire industry and activity, while they exhibited the happiest efforts of both.

After passing many miles in this manner in a short period, a majestic palace appeared before us, of the antient doric order, with lofty columns of red granite, highly polished, having capitals and bases of jasper, the grandeur of which was more striking from the vast size of the fabrick corresponding so happily with the nature of the order. When we came near this building, instead of entering it, as I expected, we turned off into a beautiful avenue, which led another way. On inquiring what this magnificent palace was intended for, I was informed, that it was formerly the abode of Minerva, but that on Juno coming to reside on the island, she had resigned it to her, and had built herself another, which was just then completed, with the exception of the left wing, and to which we were then proceeding. And not long after this, on passing through a grove of lofty chestnuts, we beheld it at a little distance.

It was built in that mode of architecture which is falsely called Gothic (a name stamped on it by the supercilious ignorance of those who would not be at the trouble to understand it) but which contains in reality the truest principles of beauty, and exhibits the greatest profundity of art, which in this fine specimen was brought to the

highest perfection, for in it the external appearance possessed all the grandeur, which the internal parts of other structures of this order so often exhibit. The buttresses and other parts which disfigure them, being in this entirely superceded, by the happy contrivance of a beautiful portico, formed on the justest principles of the order, which while it contained all the mass necessary for the proper equilibrium of the internal arches, concealed the art by which this was effected. Nothing could exceed the elegance of the building, and the cheartulness caused by the vast body of light admitted by its spacious windows; its ornaments were of the simplest nature, and in this respect it bore the same analogy to other buildings of this species of architecture, which the Doric bears to the Composite order.

Some majestic looking females appeared before this building, and my conductresses informing me they perceived Minerva among them, stopped the chariot, and one of them proceeded to announce our approach, and receive her orders. She speedily returned, and I was then led by her before the goddess of the arts and sciences.

She appeared as if in the act of giving some directions about the unfinished part of the building, for she stood near it, and held a large plan open in one hand, while she leaned a little forward on her spear with the other. A countenance in which majesty and benignity, profound intelligence and exquisite sweetness were happily blended with a celestial beauty, and which inspired at once admiration and respect, now beamed forth on my astonished eyes with the splendour of a noon-day sun. I knelt on one knee before her, related the cause of my coming to the island, humbly implored her interest with Juno in the cause of my fair country women, and solicited her propitious favour in my studies of those arts which she patronized, and which from my infancy I had ardently followed.

Rise my son, replied the goddess. Your country-women may rely on my favour, which they have so much merited, as well as that of her to whom this island belongs. I have little doubt that our request to Juno will induce her to redress their wrongs. The part of your country which you came from, is by me most esteemed. The linen manufacture has ever been favoured by me, and I honour it by taking my name Athenæ* from it; I introduced it from Egypt into Greece, and lastly to Ulster, where it flourishes above either. I once hoped to make its chief city the successor to my favourite Athens, but many obstructions to this remain to be removed. The useful sciences should ever precede those which are only ornamental, the desire of reversing this order, which my followers there pursue, will, I fear, long delay my wishes, if not totally prevent their attainment. As to your own petition, it is directed to favourable ears, your labours, my son, have not been unnoticed by me, and as a token of my approbation, I present you this image of my form, which I permit you ever to retain.

Saying this, she presented me with a large medal of solid gold, on which her resemblance was stamped with the most beautiful execution and effect, and then directed my conductress to introduce me to one of the ladies of her family, who would, she said, show me the various musæums, and repositories of the arts in her palace, which she knew I would behold with pleasure, and would attend to those other cares which mortals required.

I returned my profound thanks to the goddess, and followed my conductress into the palace. After passing through a magnificent antichamber, we entered a very spacious apartment, lighted by many vast windows, which rendered it as light as the external air. Here a number of elegantly formed females, were busily engaged in different occupations. Some were employed in the antient art of tapestry, with which they framed images of the most brilliant colouring, and happiest effect; others were painting some of the memorable events of history in the neglected wax colours of the Greeks, which are falsely said to be lost, though plainly described by

* See La Pluches History of the Heavens, vol. I. Article Minerva.

the ancient writers. Every species of the graphic art was pursued here, both in oil and water colours, engraving, etching, and aquatinta; various looms were also busily at work, and the glory of the north, the inimitable damask was not neglected; at the lower end several were engaged in various designs of sculpture, and numerous other useful and ornamental arts were all carried on here at the same time. At the upper end of the apartment were musical instruments of all sorts, to which the ladies resorted for amusement in the intervals of their other employments. One or more played by turns while the rest were at work, which made their pleasing occupations still more chearful. When we entered a lady of most graceful figure sat in this part of the apartment, on a seat somewhat elevated, before a large harp of the utmost harmony of tone, furnished with such artful contrivances, as to render it the most perfect of stringed instruments. The music of it was exquisitely touching, and as she was playing on it, when we approached, we stopped to listen, that we might not interrupt her, and heard her sing the following verses with inimitable sweetness, to music, perfectly appropriate to their design.

Friendship again thy empire seize,
From Love's blind god thy throne regain;
In youth alone his furies please,
Thy powers to bless through age remain;
From him spring forth consuming fires,
You form life's gentlest tenderest tie:
A fleeting transport he inspires,
But you sustain us till we die.

When she finished, she looked up, and perceiving us, arose and walked towards us: my conductress presented me to her, repeated the words of the goddess, and wished me farewell, as she was obliged to return to the fort. The lady smiled benignantly, and welcomed me with an air, which showed the pleasure she took in executing the directions of her patroness, and her delight in performing acts of kindness.

In beauty of form she was not inferior to some of the most favoured of the neighbouring island;* and if her countenance could not be compared to theirs in exquisite finish and regularity of feature, it possessed another species of beauty infinitely superior, where refined sense and intelligence, understanding and goodness of heart beamed forth in every look, and captivated the mind as well as the heart. The beauty of most of the ladies here was of the same species, though many of them might vie with the others, in even their most boasted charms. But in truth their conversation was so delightful, from its good sense and benevolence, that I thought but little of their looks, and as to their dress I remember nothing but that it was modest, rational, graceful and becoming, and that the external garments of all contained some mixture either of silk or fine wool, or were entirely of silk. There was a dignity in their manner which prevented familiarity, without being any way repulsive, they spoke with the freedom and at the same time with the kindness of friends, equally remote from the extremes of stiff reserve, and negligent incivility, and possessed eminently that true ease of manners, which the slavish votaries of fashion are ever attempting in vain, because they want its chief requisites, refinement of mind and benevolence of heart.

As the day was far passed, Serena, my kind and lovely guide, proposed we should postpone our visits to the repositories of art and science, till the following morning, and as the hour of their chief repast was near, we passed the interval in viewing the works in which the ladies were employed where we then were. They were all finished with exquisite beauty, but the two which most attracted my attention were, a picture which seemed to exceed all in the richness of its colouring, but on nearer approach was seen to be composed entirely of shreds of various coloured cloth; which art I was told was the invention of a most respectable* lady of my country, whose happy wit, and brilliant invention the hand of time had not been able to diminish. The other piece of art, was a landscape, formed by fine filaments of glass, stained of all the requisite shades, which were united

* Paphos.

* Mrs. C—f—ld, of Enniskillen.

close together vertically by an indestructible cement, and which when polished at the surface exhibited the most exact imitation of nature, while it had the advantage of being unalterable by time.

Shortly after this the ladies passed into another apartment, where an elegant repast was prepared, of which the various articles were chosen and prepared so as most eminently to promote health and refreshment. At the table two new dishes were introduced this day: one was a haunch of Llama, skilfully dressed; the other was the favourite vegetable of the Chinese, called Pe tsai, and both were found to be excellent. The lady who directed the rearing of the newly-arrived Llamas, informed us of their many valuable qualities, and showed us a shawl which she had woven from their wool herself, which exceeded in beauty the finest produce of Cashmire. The lady who had cultivated the Pe-tsai told us, it was of the brasica genus, and was preferred by those who used it to all other kinds. Several of the other ladies informed us of circumstances which had occurred to them, either useful or amusing, in their studies of that day. One lady had proved a plant, which before was esteemed poisonous, to be capable of producing a powerful medicine, by a certain management, which she related: another had succeeded in fixing a beautiful and permanent scarlet dye on linen; a third exhibited some fine thread, made without any twist, by passing fibres of flax, drawn out, and united by a curious engine, through an elastic varnish, which she had just brought to perfection, which dried instantly, and which was unalterable by moisture, or the action of the air. A fourth lady recounted a curious article of history which she had met in an ancient Chinese book, that exhibited in a new light the fatal effects of a violent passion, uncontrouled by reason or justice. A very young lady lately admitted, observed on this, that it would be better if the sexes were formed without passions, or that they could totally eradicate them by firmness of resolution. But Serena replied to her, that by the same mode of reasoning, we should banish the use of fire, and of every other powerful agent in nature, for that as any thing in the moral or natural world had power to promote happiness, in the same proportion it had power to cause misery: the fire which consumed the unskilful, warmed others, and produced a thousand benefits by judicious management; and passion, which was no less destructive when ungoverned, was productive of equal advantages under due controul.

In such discourses as these, the moments passed swiftly and pleasantly, till the repast was concluded.

NEMORENSIS.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the eighth canto of the Gerusalemme Conquistata, of Tasso, 12th and 18th octaves, is the word *fonte* put in the feminine gender, which flagrant solecism, with some other matters I could mention, tempts me to doubt whether that poem was ever the production of Tasso; it is in many places irksome and obscure, and is altogether unworthy of the author of the Liberata.

If any person who is studious of Italian literature, could adjust this point, through the medium of your Magazine, it would much oblige

RICCIARDO.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

*First Report from the Committee on Acts regarding the use of broad Wheels and other matters, relating to the preservation of the Turnpike Roads and Highways of the Kingdom.**

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the acts now in force, regarding the use of broad Wheels, and to examine what shape is best calculated for ease of Draught, and the preservation of the Roads; also to suggest such additional regulations as may contribute to the preservation of the Turnpike roads and Highways of the Kingdom: And who were instructed to consider of an Act made in the 28th year of his present Majesty, for limiting the number of persons to be carried on the outside of Stage Coaches or other carriages; and to report, from time to time to the house,

* Published in June 1806.

have proceeded to examine the several Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following Report:

YOUR Committee having proceeded to consider the important subjects recommended to their attention, have thought it incumbent upon them to lose no time in reporting to the House some particulars given in evidence to them, which are not only connected with the preservation of the roads, but also in other respects interesting to the public.

By an act passed in the year 1788 (28 Geo. 3. c. 57.) regulations were made for the purpose of limiting the number of persons permitted to travel on the outside of stage coaches or other carriages: and this law was afterwards altered, explained, and amended by an act passed in the year 1790, (30 Geo. 3. c. 34.) by which additional provisions were enacted.

It appears to your committee that the salutary regulations provided by these acts have been by a variety of contrivances most grossly evaded, insomuch that instead of six (the number limited by the original act) twenty passengers and more are often carried on the outside of stage coaches. It is not unusual to see ten on the roof, three on the box (besides the driver) four behind on what is called *the gamon board*, and six on the dicky or chair; in all, often above thrice the number intended to be allowed.

These evasions of the law are in several respects of great public disadvantage.

1. It cannot be doubted that machines conveying such a number of persons and their luggage must be extremely destructive to the Roads: the wheels are narrow, and the weight great; and as these carriages are not liable to the regulations regarding weighing engines, the weight they carry has no limit.

2. From the enormous weight, and the injudicious manner in which such numbers of passengers and their luggage are so frequently conveyed, namely on the roof (which renders the carriage top heavy, and apt to be overturned) accidents are perpetually happening in one part of the kingdom or another; and indeed scarce a week passes without some of those carriages breaking down, and often killing the unfortunate passengers who have trusted themselves to that mode of conveyance. Within these few days the Croydon coach broke down, from its being overloaded, in consequence of which two persons lost their lives, and several others were severely bruised. For a variety of other instances of the same sort, your Committee beg leave to refer to the Appendix.

Your Committee are persuaded that it is unnecessary for them to dwell any longer upon a subject which they humbly conceive is well entitled to the immediate attention of parliament, by whose authority such disgraceful and dangerous practices can alone be prevented.

Second Report of the Committee on Acts relating to Broad Wheels, &c. *

YOUR Committee have already communicated to the House some information regarding the subject which they were instructed to consider, namely, "The Regulations as to the Number of Outside Passengers to be conveyed in Stage Coaches;"—They now beg leave to report on the two other points recommended to their attention, namely, 1. The System that ought to be adopted for the greater Ease of Draught in Carriages; and, 2. The best means of preserving the Turnpike Roads and Highways of the Kingdom.

From the late period of the session at which your Committee was appointed, they find it impossible to do that justice which they could wish to these important investigations; at the same time they trust, that the information they have collected, and which they now beg leave to submit to the consideration of the house, contains some useful suggestions, which, aided by further inquiries in the course of some future session, will enable parliament to form such a system regarding the public roads, as may be of the most material service in promoting the general interests of the kingdom.

1. Observations respecting Ease of Draught in the Conveyance of Goods.

Ease of draught, independent of the state of the roads, which will be afterwards considered, must principally

* Published in July 1806.

depend on two circumstances: 1. The general nature of the carriage made use of; and, 2. The construction of the wheels.

1. *Carriages.*

A variety of carriages have been adopted in different countries, from the sledge to the waggon, with wheels, rolling a surface of sixteen inches each, dragged by from eight to ten, and even twelve horses, and conveying, according to the laws now in force, eight tons in weight.

Waggons upon the largest scale may certainly be economical to the proprietor, more especially where the wages of men are high, as one trusty person, with an assistant at inferior wages, can manage a number of horses, and convey, with the like number of horses and attendants, greater burdens, in proportion to the expense, than can be carried on the public roads in any other manner (single horse carts, where two or three can be conducted by one person, as is practised in Scotland, alone excepted) and, if there were no objections to the use of waggons, on account of the destruction which they occasion to the roads (the reparation of which is attended with so heavy an expense to the public) the use of them would be deserving of encouragement, more especially in a commercial country, where it is important that goods should be conveyed at as moderate an expense as possible. But your committee are led to believe, from the information which they have acquired, that there are scarcely any materials of which our roads are formed, that can bear the pressure of such enormous* weights as these waggons are now allowed by law to carry; in addition to which it may be stated, that the form of their wheels or rollers, whose fellies are sixteen inches broad, and, as now constructed, of a conical shape, is particularly injurious to the roads, as will be more fully explained hereafter.

Mr. Russel, of Exeter, one of the most considerable carriers in the kingdom, who is in the habit of using no less a number than two hundred and twenty-four horses, in waggons with wheels having fellies nine inches in breadth, having endeavoured to improve the construction of his waggons as much as possible: an engraving of one of those waggons, with an account of the dimensions thereof, is annexed.*

Machines with two wheels, for conveying goods and other articles, are known under the general name of carts or cars. Of these, single horse carts are in many cases to be preferred; for, though they cannot be adopted with equal advantage where roads are crowded with carriages, and each cart must have a distinct person to attend it, yet where one person can take the charge of two or three single horse carts, which is the case in some parts of the united kingdom, there are no means by which a great quantity of goods can be conveyed at so small an expense.

Carts with two horses abreast have been tried in some counties; but those in use are said to be injurious to the roads, from the enormous weights they convey on narrow wheels. It has also been suggested, that carts with three horses abreast might be advantageous. If they were restricted to wheels whose tire was of a breadth proportionate to the weights they were allowed to carry, and of a cylindrical form, the value of this species of cart would be particularly felt in hilly countries, not only as all the horses could be more easily managed by the driver, so as to oblige them to act with all their force together in dragging the machine up-hill, but they would also be equally employed in resisting the weight of the carriage in the descent.† This kind of machine, if it answers the expectation formed of it, might be of considerable service in his Majesty's ordnance and military departments.

On the whole, the proper form of carriages for the conveyance of goods, in different circumstances, is a subject which still requires further investiga-

* Appendix, No. i.

* Appendix, No. ii.

† There is reason to believe that Mr. Cooke, of Chute House, near Andover, will build a waggon on a new construction, to be drawn by three horses abreast, and that Mr. Russel, the Exeter waggoner, will make use of it for some time, so as to give it a fair trial.

tion, and accurate experiments, before the principles thereof can be fully ascertained.

2. Wheels.

This extensive subject may be considered under the following general heads: 1. The form of the rim or felly: 2. The nature and position of the spokes: 3. The breadth of the wheels: 4. Their height, and the line of draught: 5. The position of the axle: 6. The weights allowed to be carried; and, 7. The experiments necessary to be tried, for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the wheels, and the construction of carriages best calculated for ease of draught in different circumstances.

1. *Form of the rim and felly.*

The rims of all wheels that have an equal bearing on their whole breadth must either be of a cylindrical or conical form. Some are rather rounded; and in some cases the law is evaded by a single strake being raised above the general surface of the tire; by which means wheels of a considerable breadth, having but a narrow bearing on the road, operate as injuriously on them as narrow wheels.

Your committee understanding that Mr. Cumming, of Pentonville, has long paid particular attention to this branch of the subject, and that he had contrived machinery, by which the effects of cylindrical and conical wheels, both in regard to the preservation of the roads, and the labour of the cattle, were ascertained, they requested his attendance.

It appears from the information with which he furnished your committee, that in the acts which have been passed for proportioning the breadth of cart and waggon wheels to the weight of the loaded carriage, it was a condition, that the wheel should be *flat on the sole*, so as to have an equal bearing on its whole breadth; and this description has for very many years been thought sufficient to secure all the advantage that could be gained by increasing the breadth of the wheel. But it appears that this description applies equally to wheels whose rims are of a cylindrical or of a conical shape, although the effects of those different shapes on the roads, and on the labour of the cattle, are not only different, but very contrary to each other: and it has unfortunately so happened, that the most unfavourable has been universally adopted.

Mr. Cumming, in an essay on that subject, has compared and contrasted the properties of the cylinder and of the cone, and from them has demonstrated the effect which broad wheels, of the conical and of the cylindrical shape, must have on the roads, and on the labour of cattle; that wheels of a conical shape have a constant tendency to impair, and those of a cylindrical shape to improve them. By a most ingenious and well adapted apparatus, he has exhibited to us experiments (an account of which will be found in the Appendix) from which the following facts may be deduced.

That there is a resistance from the partial dragging at the periphery of every wheel that is of a conical shape; that it grinds the hardest materials, and leaves the surface of the roads in a state to imbibe water, and adds considerably to the labour of the cattle; and that this resistance, so injurious to the roads, and to the cattle, is increased, by increasing the breadth of the conical wheel.

That wheels that are cylindrical have no such dragging at their circumference, no such grinding or deranging of the materials; and that the cylindrical wheel, by its progressive dead pressure, consolidates and unites the materials, and leaves the surface smooth, close, and impenetrable to water; and that on a regular, well-formed, clean road, the resistance to the progress of the cylindrical wheel is not increased by increasing the breadth; and that the cylindrical shape is the best possible, it being the only form of the rim that can have an equal velocity of all the parts of its periphery.

Mr. Cumming, in his essay, has enumerated nine resistances which occasionally obstruct the progress of a carriage; but that of the dragging of the conical rim being the only one that is constant, and the least attended to, it is herein exclusively considered.

With deep snow, deep sludge, and in general with deep roads, the resistance to the front of the wheel increases with its breadth; and for this reason it may be proper to recommend for the present no greater breadth than from 9 to 12 inches; and as many broad wheels are now made, that are rounded on the sole or periphery, and they are neither a part of a perfect cylinder or cone, their properties must be estimated according to their affinity to the one or the other. But as all these have not an equal bearing on their whole breadth, they must partake in a proportional degree of the disadvantages of narrow wheels; they form the surface of the roads into ruts or flutes, and, by constantly shifting the materials, they keep the surface in a state ready to admit water, and this increases the bad effects of hard frosts.

The various circumstances that are stated by Mr. Cumming, in his essay, of the comparative merits of conical and cylindrical wheels, appear to be well warranted by the experiments which have been repeatedly performed before your Committee, and lead to the following conclusions: 1. That when wheels are very narrow, there is little difference in the power required to draw the same load, whether they be conical or cylindrical: 2. That in conical wheels, the power required to draw the same load (on the best and smoothest roads) is considerably increased, by increasing the breadth of the wheels, and that all the increase of labour of the cattle is applied to the destruction of the road: 3. That on the cylindrical wheels, the same power draws the carriage upon smooth roads with equal ease, whether the wheels be broad or narrow; but by the use of such broad wheels, the roads, instead of being destroyed, are consolidated and improved: 4. That great fluctuations take place in the power necessary to draw the same load on conical wheels, according to the circumstances of the wheel bearing on the narrow parts of its rim, on its whole rim, or on the extremities of its rim: 5. And that no such difference of resistance happens, under the same circumstances, with the cylindrical broad wheels: 6. And that from every circumstance, the cylindrical wheel is preferable to the conical, in every state of the roads; and in whatever state they may be, the cylindrical improves, and the conical impairs them: 7. That the general conclusion, from all the experiments that have been exhibited before your Committee, is, that so far as regards the preservation of the roads, and the labour of the cattle, the cylindrical shape of a wheel is preferable to any other possible shape, it being the only one that has the same velocity at every part of its rim, and that has no dragging or rubbing, nor any tendency to grind or derange the materials, nor to leave the surface of the road in a condition to imbibe or to admit water.

These conclusions appear to your Committee to be fully warranted by the reasonings offered in support of them, and fully supported by the experiments which we have seen; and although we are of opinion that it will be advisable to make accurate experiments with carriages of full size, to determine the quantum of the difference between the effects of conical and cylindrical wheels in practice, the evidence already before the Committee leaves no room to doubt that much advantage must be gained in the gradual improvement of the roads, and in saving the labour of cattle by the gradual introduction of cylindrical wheels of moderate breadth, which may be increased as the roads are improved, and as prejudice against them subsides.

From the illustrations which Mr. Cumming has produced, of the contrary effects which wheels of a cylindrical and conical shape must have on the roads, and on the labour of cattle, and the very satisfactory experiments by which every conclusion was supported, it may be presumed, that much benefit might be gained by his investigating general principles for constructing wheel carriages, and by illustrating the principles by experiments in the manner which he has already adopted. But it cannot be expected that any individual, possessed of but a moderate income, and having a family to maintain, can devote his attention almost exclusively to so intricate and extensive a subject, without a remuneration ade-

quate to his labour, and the advantages which the public must necessarily derive from his zeal and services.

It having been thus proved, that the cylindrical shape of the rim is the most advantageous (a discussion on this subject will be found in the appendix) the disposition of the spokes claim the next attention.

2. *The Spokes.*

These are the radii of the wheel, and connect the nave with the rim or fellies.

Their position may be perpendicular to the axle; 2. oblique, or dished; or, 3. double dished. When the spokes stand square, or at right angles, to the axis, they derive no other advantage from that position than the actual strength of the timber of which they are made, and are calculated only to bear a perpendicular pressure. When the spokes stand oblique, it gives the wheel a concave appearance on the side that is the furthest from the carriage, which is called *dishing;* and the dishing gives to the wheel, in some positions, much additional strength, from the affinity which it has to an arch. It is possible, that the dishing of the wheel was a consequence of the bending of the axis; and it being found that the dishing of wheels was attended with other advantages besides strength, they have been universally preferred. When the obliquity of the spokes is adapted to the bending of the axis, those that are immediately below the axis stand perpendicular to the surface of the road, in which position they are the best able to resist the perpendicular pressure of the load, but are the less able to resist lateral jolts.

But if the dished wheel be applied to a straight axis, the spokes will more advantageously resist the oblique pressure on a sloping road, or any accidental lateral jolt.

Spokes that consist of two rows, and that are dished in opposite directions, have of late years been occasionally used in low wheels, where much strength is required; as each row of these spokes have all the advantages of the single dishing, and as they are directed towards the opposite sides of the wheel, it must be much stronger than the single row, and much better adapted to resist lateral shocks in both directions.

The *double-dishing* seems peculiarly calculated for wheels whose rims are of considerable breadth, as the spokes may be so applied as to give a double support to the rim or fellies, as well as stability against lateral jerks.

3. *Breadth of the Wheels.*

It has been proved, by the experiments made by Mr. Cumming before your Committee, that when the rim of a wheel is made truly cylindrical, so as to have an equal bearing on its whole breadth, that the resistance to its progress on a smooth regular surface is not increased by increasing its breadth; and the advantages of a broad bearing of a wheel on the road are too obvious to be doubted: but as deep snow, deep sludge, or deep roads must obstruct the progress of a broad wheel more than the narrow, experience and local circumstances must ultimately determine the breadth of wheels fit for general use. But it should ever be held in remembrance, that the narrower the rim, the more damage it does the roads; and if cylindrical, the broader it is, consistently with other circumstances, the more it improves them. It seems deserving of consideration, whether the wheels of stage coaches, &c. ought not to be made broader than at present, considering the very great weights which they frequently carry.

4. *The Height of Wheels.*

The opinions regarding the height of wheels are various, even among men of science, some estimating the advantages of high wheels by the greater facility with which they surmount fixed obstacles, and the diminution of friction on the axis: but as fixed obstacles are removed on all turnpike roads and highways, the first consideration is no longer of importance; and the friction on the axis is only reduced to one-half with a wheel of twice the height. But if the double weight of the high wheel in drawing up hill be compared with the diminution of the friction on the axis, it will be found on a general average to exceed out of all comparison. From which consideration, it would seem that wheels of a moderate height ought to be preferred, unless where particular circumstances may recommend the higher wheel.

The most advantageous direction of

the line of draught in wheel carriages is a subject of great importance, but in some instances involved in so much intricacy, that it does not yet appear to have been sufficiently investigated in particular cases: it is therefore an object worthy of serious consideration to determine it in all its varieties, as well in a practical as a theoretical view.

5. *The position of the Axis.*

The axles of all carriages were probably at first made straight, and the wheels cylindrical, for in the earliest and simplest carriages the wheels were fixed on the axle, which turned with them; and this appears to be in several respects preferable to any other position of the axis. But when the size of carriages was increased, and the road remained yet very narrow and the ruts deep, it became necessary to bend the ends of the axles downwards, to give room for the body of the carriage, and to bring the lower part of the wheels so close together, as to run in the old deep ruts. But now that the roads have no such deep ruts, there is no longer any such necessity for bringing the wheels of such carriages as travel the turnpike roads, closer together below than at top; the straight axis is naturally adapted to the cylindrical rim, and will probably be found, in practice, as well as in theory, the best position for the axles of wheel carriages, excepting only those of carriages of pleasure in the metropolis, and other populous cities: but this ought not to affect the general construction.

Besides the bending the ends of the axles of waggons downards, as before stated, another bending of the axis has been practised by some, since the divergency of the conical wheels has been discovered: in order to counteract the tendency of the conical wheels to draw further from each other in their progress, they bend the ends of the axis *forward*, to make the front of the wheels to come as close to each other at the front, as at the lowest part of the wheel, conceiving that by thus giving the wheels a convergency or tendency to come closer together in their progress, that would balance the divergency that would arise from the conical shape of the wheel; thus vainly conceiving, that, by giving the wheel another tendency, in direct opposition to that of the conical wheel, the one would remedy the other. But instead of curing the evil arising from the conical shape of the wheel, this intended remedy however plausible, will be found to double the evil which it was intended to remedy.

6. *Weight allowed to be carried.*

Various acts of parliament have settled the weight to be carried according to the breadth of the wheels; of which the following table gives a general view.

Waggons with four wheels or rollers, of the width of

Inches.	In Summer. *Tons.*	*Cwt.*	In Winter. *Tons.*	*Cwt.*
16 are allowed	8.	0.	7.	0.
9 rolling 16	6.	10.	6.	0.
9	6.	0.	5.	10.
6 Do. 11	5.	10.	5.	0.
6	4.	5.	3.	15.
Under 6	3.	10.	3.	0.
Carts with				
9	3.	0.	2.	15.
6	2.	12.	2.	7.
Under 6	1.	10.	1.	7.

Your Committee at the same time are of opinion, that some alterations ought to be made in that table, according to the proportion specified in the appendix.

7 *Experiments to be tried.*

It appears, on the whole, that there remain still so many doubtful points to be ascertained, on the subject of wheels, that it would be desirable to institute a complete set of experiments, for the purpose of fixing the principles on which they ought to be constructed. These experiments should include each of the various particulars above alluded to, and ought to be tried, not in a cursory manner, but for a considerable period of time, in situations best calculated to produce results which can be depended upon for their accuracy and universality.

It would not be difficult to ascertain the effect of each particular point connected with the construction of wheels, in so far as regards the labour of the cattle alone, and the strength of wheels of different construction; but as to their effects upon the roads, it should seem to be necessary to make experiments on them through all the various circumstances of the different seasons of the year. Perhaps there are no means by which these points could be so well ascertained as if the

experiments were undertaken by so valuable an establishment as the Board of Ordnance, who are materially interested in the result of such enquiries, and under whose inspection the experiments could be carried on with every possible advantage.

II. Preservation of the Roads.

It must be obvious that, notwithstanding any improvements which may be made in the general construction or mode of conducting our carriages, or in the form and proportion of their different parts, and more especially of the wheels; however accurately all these may be contrived, according to true mechanical principles; yet if equal care and attention is not paid to the original formation, and, what is perhaps of equal importance, to the constant preservation of the roads, all the prudence of the economical carrier, all the ingenuity and skill of the mechanic, are of little avail.

The man of curiosity who travels for his pleasure; the man of business who traverses the country in pursuit of his affairs; those whose occupation it is to supply one part of the kingdom with the produce of the other, or to convey from the interior to the sea ports the articles of our industry for foreign consumption; and those who are to be supplied by these means with the necessaries or luxuries of life; are equally disappointed in their hopes, and where they look for pleasure, security, economy and expedition, they have to encounter fatigue and danger, expense and delay. Next to the general influence of the seasons and of the weather, (upon which we so much depend for the regular supply of our wants, and for a great proportion of our comforts) there is perhaps no circumstance more interesting to men in a civilized state, than the perfection of the means of interior communication: and it is deservedly our boast, that more attention has, upon the whole, been already paid to this important object, in this country, than almost in any other part of the world.

The best modes of forming roads are now indeed pretty well understood, and carried into execution in most parts of the kingdom; but some regulations appear still to be wanting for their due preservation and management.

Upon these heads your Committee have received several useful suggestions, which they have added, by way of Appendix, as containing matters highly worthy of the consideration of the House.

Conclusion.

The general question of roads, and of the carriages conveyed upon them, would require much more time and attention, than it has been possible for your committee to bestow, since the period of their appointment. They beg, however, to allude to some particulars which have come under their consideration, and respecting which various suggestions have been collected in the course of their proceedings.

1. The first relates to the improvements which might be made in the general laws regarding highways and turnpikes. A number of hints have been transmitted to your Committee from various quarters, which are inserted in the Appendix, where any person desirous of investigating the subject, will have an opportunity of examining them*. Your Committee are decidedly of opinion that these laws require to be re-considered; and perhaps it would be most advisable, though it would be an arduous task, to repeal the former laws, and to form the whole into one regular digest, which, from the experience of so many years since the laws were first enacted, may be considerably amended and improved.

2. With a view to the greater safety of passengers, whose lives are now so often endangered by public vehicles of different descriptions, a coach has been invented by the Rev. Wm. Milton. Your Committee do not hazard an opinion on the merits of this invention, which should be ascertained and established by adequate trials. They have thought it right, however, to insert in the appendix an account of the invention.

* Your Committee would also recommend to any person desirous of fully and accurately investigating this subject, the perusal of a valuable work, written by John Scott, esq. late a very active magistrate in the county of Herts, under the title of "Digests of the general highway and turnpike laws."

3. The idea of conveying goods and carriages on railways is likely to prevail, the more the subject is considered. In many cases railways are certainly preferable even to canals, and wherever they can be adopted, they are unquestionably better calculated than the common roads, for the conveyance of goods, more especially those of a heavy nature. An idea has occurred, of forming what may be called *stone railways*. Your Committee have thought it right to give a short account of the plan, in the Appendix, with an engraving, to explain one mode by which this may be effected. Any new idea of that sort, thrown out for the consideration of ingenious men, may possibly be improved, so as to turn out of public utility. Probably the mode which has been already adopted, in the commercial road, leading from the West India docks, may be considered as an improvement of this plan; the centre of that road is paved of a convenient breadth for the use of carriages heavily laden, while the lighter carriages, and horses, pass with ease on each side on a road formed in the usual manner.

4. The direction and the forming of roads are also points which merit the attention of parliament. As to the first particular, it is well known that the roads in former times were not conducted in the manner the best calculated for the travelling of carriages heavily laden. Their course was frequently carried up steep ascents, to gain the open country, and avoid the vallies, because the roads through the latter could not easily be made passable in the wet seasons of the year, without a labour and expense which it was perhaps then thought unnecessary to incur, when most, even of the heavy articles of trade, were carried on the backs of horses. Your Committee are of opinion, that by examining the lines of the present roads, much improvement might be effected. Any such alterations must necessarily occasion expense, and may be liable to some objections; at the same time it is well worth the trial, and the first attempt might be made on the great line of road between London and Edinburgh, by which the capitals of the two kingdoms would be more closely connected; and if the advantages were found to be considerable, the same plan might afterwards be extended to other lines. On that subject your Committee beg to refer to a paper which will be found in the Appendix, and which explains the nature of such a plan, and the means of carrying it into effect.

On the whole, your Committee have endeavoured in this Report, and in the Appendix annexed to it, to furnish such information as they trust may be of service, when these particulars come again under the consideration of the House. The points they have alluded to in the Report are of such infinite consequence to the convenience, the comfort, the commercial prosperity, and the personal security of their fellow subjects, that they will feel peculiar satisfaction, if any suggestions, which it has been in their power to collect, shall at all contribute to such important purposes.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

Historical Eulogium on Joseph Priestley, Read at the public sitting of the National Institute, in the class of mathematical and physical sciences, the 5th of Messidor, year 13 (1806) *by G. Cuvier, perpetual secretary of the first class of the National Institute, and professor of the College of France, and of the Museum of Natural History. Translated by the Rev. D. B. Warden, M. A. and Secretary to the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America. Paris.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE to address you on the subject of the life and works of Doctor Joseph Priestley, an English ecclesiastic, born at Fieldhead, near Bristo

in 1728*, and who died at Philadelphia, in 1804.

On account of his great philosophical discoveries, he was nominated corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences at Paris; and the National Institute was eager to embrace him in the same quality. He belonged also to most other academies of science; and the homage which I now offer him, has perhaps been already bestowed in all great capitals.

This honourable unanimity will give fresh courage to the friends of science: it will exhibit to them in a strong light, the irresistible influence of real merit, when they know that he on whom it is conferred, employed no art, no address, to catch applause; that his whole life was polemical; and that it appeared to be his pleasure to combat the most popular opinions, and to attack the dearest interests of certain classes of men.

It is true, that this excessive ardour in support of his opinions, drew upon him the most implacable hatred. For a long time he was exposed to every species of calumny, and was often the victim of the most atrocious persecution. A populace, maddened by the false reports of his enemies, robbed him, in one day, of the fruits of the industry of half his life; and it was only by expatriation, that he wearied or evaded the animosity of his persecutors. But whilst his fellow citizens appeared to abandon him, strangers hastened to offer him an honourable asylum. And, at this moment, in a country at war with his, the first literary institution of the nation assembles to pay, through me their organ, the last sad tribute which it owes its member. It is in this hall that I observe many of those, whom he has combated, join, in some degree, their voice with mine, to complete his triumphs.

Science and philosophy will have nothing to dread from their blind enemies, as long as a like reward awaits the man who shall have enlarged the noble edifice of knowledge; as long as genius, the friend of humanity, shall know how to extricate itself from the fetters of little local relations;—as long, in fine, as the developement of some new truths will atone for opinions at least extraordinary, and, perhaps dangerous; for, I cannot conceal that those different sorts of opinions are found among those of Priestley.

In effect, his history shows you, in a certain way, two different men, I may say, almost opposite to each other.

The one, a wary philosopher, who examines those objects only which lie within the bounds of his experience, who applies to his procedure the most rigorous logic, who adopts neither system nor prejudice, who seeks truth wherever it may be, and almost always discovers and establishes it in the most solid and brilliant manner.

The other, a rash theologian, who approaches, with boldness, the most mysterious questions, despises the belief of ages, rejects authority the most revered, enters the list with opinions previously conceived, seeks more to raise their importance than to examine them, and embraces, for their support, the most contradictory hypotheses*.

* According to an account of Doctor Priestley's life, written by himself, he was born at Fieldhead, near Leeds, in 1733.

B.M.M.

* Whatever may be the sentiments of Bonaparte on the subject of religion, which however seem to have fluctuated according to the various situations in which circumstances have placed him, it is certain that a large proportion of the French nation, throughout all the changes of their revolution, retained a regard for the established form of religion to which they had been accustomed during the old dynasty. To comply either with Bonaparte's real sentiments, or to accommodate his wish to please the French people on this subject, many of the writers and orators have, since his rise to power, promulgated sentiments unfavourable to free discussion on religious subjects. Hence, throughout this oration, an inclination to condemn Dr. Priestley for the freedom of his theological opinions, is apparent. To those who are convinced of the importance of the rights of free discussion, as conducive to the discovery of religious truth, the doctor's laborious investigation, and upright and undisguised avowal of his sentiments, will appear his high praise; and this praise of upright views cannot justly be

The first tranquilly delivers his discoveries to the examination of the learned; they establish themselves without opposition, and procure for him an incontestible glory. The second exhibits himself in a warlike apparel, bristling with erudition and metaphysics, attacking all sects, shaking all dogmas, and revolting all consciences by the ardour which he employs for their subjugation.

It is against the man of heaven—against the minister of peace, they brandish terrestrial arms: it is he whom they accuse of exciting hatred, calling for vengeance, and troubling the peace of society.

The profane philosopher is respected by all. Every one acknowledges that he pretends not to defend truth but by reason, that he employs his discoveries for the use of man, and that his writings indicate mildness and modesty.

Compelled as I am, gentlemen, to unfold to you the whole of Priestley's life, it is necessary that I represent him in these two characters; it is necessary that I speak of him as a metaphysician, theologian, and politician; I shall not mistake, however, that which my functions more particularly demand; I shall not forget the philosopher, the member of the national institute, and that *here* you expect some account of his discoveries.

Besides, it is probable, that in this view, he will most interest Europe and posterity. He has somewhere said, that for a durable reputation, scientific labours are as far above all others, as the laws of nature are above the organization of society; and that none of those statesmen who have ruled in the British cabinet approach the celebrity of a Bacon, a Newton, or a Boyle; a maxim perhaps exaggerated, but fortunate and consoling; for he is not the first celebrated man whose character has been moulded by this idea.

It is here essential to mention, that his divergent opinions had no influence over his conduct; and, if we except the unmerited misfortunes which attacked his old age, the events of his life show nothing but uniformity and simplicity. A list of his works sufficiently indicates the life he led; and when we know, that he is the author of more than a hundred volumes, we may be well convinced that he was not much in the world, and that his history consists of little more than an analysis of his writings.

His father was a manufacturer, and his first preceptor a dissenting clergyman*. After some years of study, he obtained a small employment in the academy of Warrington. He afterwards accepted the office of pastor of a church of dissenters at Leeds, a town not far distant from the place of his birth.

Lord Shelburne, secretary of state, since named Marquis of Landsdown, having heard of his merit, determined to confide to him the education of his oldest son, who is already known by the name of Lord Wycomb, and who has succeeded to the title of his father. After the lapse of seven years he quitted the house of this lord, and

withheld from him by those, who, on such subjects may adopt conclusions widely different from him. In the latter part of his life the doctor reviewed his exertions to discover religious truth, with much complacency, and prized his attainments in this line much higher than his discoveries in chemistry and natural philosophy. It appeared necessary to make these explanatory observations, to show, that in giving this account to the public, we do not concur in the censure cast on him for the freedom of his theological inquiries. B.M.M.

* According to Dr. Priestley's own account, it appears, that after the death of his mother, he was under the care of his aunt, whom he describes as a truly pious and excellent woman. His first preceptor appears to have been a clergyman of the church of England, and afterwards he studied under a dissenting clergyman, till he was removed to the academy of Daventry, in his nineteenth year. He settled first as a preacher at Needham, in Suffolk, and afterwards at Nantwich, in Cheshire. He then went to Warrington, but it was not till after he retired from his situation as tutor in the languages in the academy there, that he resided at Leeds. The French writer has not had accurate information as to several parts of the Doctor's life. B.M.M.

resumed his pastoral functions for the dissenters of Birmingham, among whom he remained eleven years. It was then that he was driven from this town, by that persecution which soon afterwards determined his emigration to the United States. Such is the short and complete summary of his private life: that of his works is more important, and ought to be more ample.

The first were consecrated to education. An English Grammar, his earliest production, is still employed in many of the schools of Britain.

His historical and geographical charts, which unfold to the eye, in a convenient manner, the origin and fall of empire, as well as the period of the life of celebrated men, deserve to be universally known. His lessons on History point out all those views, and that species of information which we ought to possess, to study with advantage the revolution of empires. Those of oratory and criticism pass as fit guides for youth.

It was in the didactic style he wrote his first works on philosophy, his history of electricity, of optics, and his elements of perspective.

The history of electricity had the merit of appearing at that interesting epoch, when Franklin gave to this fine branch of physics its noblest lustre, in its wonderful application to human use: it contained a faithful narrative and analysis of all which was then known on this subject: the work was translated into several languages, and was the means of spreading abroad the reputation of Priestley.

But quitting the ungrateful task of publishing the discoveries of others, he hastened to place himself among the first philosophers.

It is particularly by his discoveries of the diffent kinds of air, that he merits this title; for these have established the most durable monument of his glory.

It had been long known, that several bodies emitted air, and that others, under certain circumstances, absorbed this element. It had been remarked, that the air of privies, of deep wells, and that which escapes from liquors in fermentation, extinguishes flame, and causes animals to perish. A light air was also observed in the interior of mines, which mounts towards the roof of the subterraneous vault, and often enflames with a violent explosion: the first had received the name of *fixed*, the other of *inflammable air*. These are the same which we now call *carbonic acid*, and *hydrogene gas*. Their specific gravities had been determined by *Cavendish*. *Black* had discovered, that it is the fixed air which causes lime and alkalis to effervesce; and *Bergman* soon demonstrated its acid nature. Such was the information on this head when Priestley took possession of the subject, and treated it with unrivalled success.

Residing near a brewery, at Leeds, he had the curiosity to examine the fixed air which exhales from beer in a state of fermentation, its influence on the flame of a candle, and the deleterious power which it exercises over animals.

These experiments having given very remarkable results, he extended the same to inflammable gas.

Desiring afterwards to determine all the circumstances under which these two airs manifest themselves, he soon remarked, that in a great number of combustions, especially in the calcination of metals, air, or its operations, is altered in its nature, without producing either fixed or inflammable air: hence his discovery of a third kind of noxious substance, which he called *phlogistc air*, and which has since been named *azotic gas*.

He employed little animals to try the pernicious action of different kinds of air, and found himself obliged to give torture to those feeling creatures. His character was depicted in the joy he experienced from the discovery of a fourth kind, which obliged him to have recourse to those cruel means; this was *nitrous air*, which has the property of diminishing suddenly the volume of every kind of air with which it mingles, almost in proportion as the other is respirable, and, of consequence, to ascertain to a certain degree the salubrity of different airs.

This discovery, the origin of that branch of physics which is named *eudiometry*, was of the first importance: all the natural sciences were interested in this new acquisition; and

medicine especially would have drawn great advantage from it, if it were not so difficult to introduce a scientific process in the practice of the most scientific arts.

Combustion, fermentation, respiration, putrefaction, produced, sometimes fixed, sometimes inflammable, at others, phlogistic air: there were then an infinite number of causes capable of vitiating the air, and, in the mean while, its purity is not sensibly altered as long as these causes act: there must therefore exist in nature some constant means of re-establishing this purity.

This was found by Priestley in the property which he discovered in vegetables of purifying the atmospheric air during the day by the decomposition of fixed air, a property which is the first key of the whole plan of vegetable economy, and which, joined to that which animals have of spoiling air by respiration, gave a glimpse of what has been since developed, that the springs of life particularly depend upon a perpetual transformation of elastic fluids.

These discoveries of course opened a new field of research concerning living bodies: physiology and medicine were illuminated by an unknown light. New rays still more vivid soon issued from the same focus.

Having applied the heat of a burning glass to an oxyd of mercury, Priestley had the good fortune to obtain, in a pure and isolated state, this respirable portion of air; which animals consume, vegetables restore, and combustion destroys: this he named *dephlogisticated air.*

Others, different from the common air, extinguished light: this made it burn with a sparkling flame, with a prodigious rapidity: others caused animals to perish, in this, without any renovation, they lived longer than in common air, and their faculties appeared to acquire new energy. It was conceived for a moment, that we were in possession of a new means of existence, and perhaps a mode of prolonging life, or at least a sure remedy against most disorders of a pulmonary kind.

This hope has proved deceitful, but nevertheless, dephlogisticated air remains one of the brightest discoveries of the eighteenth century: it is this which, under the name of oxygen, modern chemistry regards as the most universal agent of nature. By it, combustion and calcination operate: it enters into the composition of all acids: it is one of the elements of water, and the great reservoir of fire: it is to this we are indebted for almost all the artificial heat which is procured in the arts and in common life: it is this which, in respiration, gives to our body, as well as to that of animals, its natural heat and the principal material of motion: the energy of different species of animals is in proportion to the force of its action: it is combined with vegetables in every period of their growth, or is disengaged from them in various ways. In a word, physics, chemistry, vegetable and animal physiology, are attended with almost no phenomenon which can be fully explained, without having recourse to this species of air.

This is no more than a light sketch of the most remarkable discoveries of Priestley: time obliges me to overlook a multitude, which would of themselves furnish rich materials for the *eloge* of another. Each of his experiments became either in his own hands or in those of other philosophers, fruitful in luminous consequences; and there are some that have not yet received sufficient attention, and which may one day become the germ of a new order of important truths.

His productions were consequently received with general interest, and were translated in all languages: his experiments were repeated, varied, and commented upon, by the most illustrious philosophers. The Royal Society decreed him, for his first volume, the medal of Copley, which is accorded for the best philosophical work that appears in the course of the year:—a medal of little value, but which England considers as the noblest reward which genius can receive.

The academy of Paris voted him a prize no less noble, and still more difficult to be obtained, because it is more rare,— one of the eight places of foreign members, for which all the learned of Europe struggle, and the list of whom, commencing with the names of Newton, Leibnitz, and

Peter the great, has, in no period, degenerated from its original splendour.

Priestley, covered with glory, is modestly astonished at his own fortune, and at the number of important facts which nature appeared unwilling to reveal, except to him. He forgot that her favours were not gratuitous, and that if she explained herself so well it was because he interrogated her with an indefatigable perseverance, and by a thousand ingenious means allured her to answer. Others carefully conceal what they owe to chance: to this Priestley appears to be willing to ascribe all: he remarks, with singular candour, how often he was aided in this way without perceiving it: how often he was in possession of new substances which he could not distinguish; and never does he dissemble the erroneous views by which he was often directed, and with respect to which he was undeceived by experience alone.

This avowal did honour to his modesty, without disarming jealousy.

Those, whose views and methods never led to any discovery, named him a simple performer of experiments, without order, and without plan: it is not surprising, add they, that in so many trials and combinations, some of them proved fortunate.

But true philosophers were not the dupes of those interested critics. They know how many efforts are necessary for the production of those happy ideas which are the parents and guardians of all the rest; and men, who, after having had the fortune to make great discoveries, have found pleasure in augmenting our admiration by the fine light in which they placed them, can have no bad will towards those, who, like Priestley, have loved more to accelerate our joy, in exhibiting them as they presented themselves and in tracing, with ingenuity, the different windings by which they were conducted to the concealed treasure.

This is pointed out by his manner of writing. His book is not a settled construction, a collection of deducible theorems, as might have been conceived by external reason. It is a simple journal of his thoughts in all the disorder of their succession: we there see a man who, at first, gropes about in profound darkness; who spies the smallest glimmering of light; who approaches and examines; whom sudden and deceitful flashes sometimes deceive, but who at last arrives at the most rich and extensive region.

Should we regret if the great masters of the human race, if Archimedes, and Newton, had unfolded, in like manner, the developement of their genius? Newton, being asked how he arrived at such noble discoveries, answered: *it was by long thinking.* What pleasure would it afford to know this long train of thoughts, from which at last originated the sublime idea of Newton, that thought, which is still as it were the soul of all his successors? His writings teach us to admire the powers of nature; but it was only by seeing him in action that we would have truly known the finest of the works of nature—the genius of a great man.

In the mean time, we are not to believe that the discoveries of Priestley were all felt by him, nor that he could expose them in his writings as they are now distinguished and illustrated. When they were performed he knew no other chemical theory than that of Stahl, and this, established upon experiments in which the airs were not considered, could not embrace them, and still less foresee their phenomena. Hence a sort of hesitation in his principles, a sort of embarrassment and uncertainty in his results; seeking every where phlogiston, he is obliged to suppose it to exist in some inconceivable way—in fixed air, heavy and acid; in inflammable air, light; or in phlogistic air, without any of its qualities in the other two. There are cases when an accumulation of phlogiston diminishes the weight of the combination, and then communicates an absolute lightness to the mixtures in which it enters; in others it produces the contrary effect: nothing appears uniform, and no general or precise conclusion is found.

It was necessary that modern chemistry should draw this conclusion, and for that she has only need of one or two formulas:—*Phlogiston does not exist; pure air is a simple substance: so is phlogistic, and inflammable air; combustion is nothing else than the combination of pure air with the*

body. Those few expressions, like the sublime words recorded in genesis, have cleared and disentangled all; chaos is arranged; each part has found its place; and the whole forms a most magnificent picture.

But, like the gods of the Pagans, this chemistry could create nothing from nothing; matter was necessary—a subject for its disposition, and this has been particularly furnished by Priestley.

Under this view he has then every right to be considered as one of the fathers of modern chemistry, and his glory is justly associated with the celebrated revolution in the system of human knowledge.

But he is a father who was never willing to acknowledge his daughter.

His perseverance in defence of his first ideas was unexampled.

He saw, without being shaken, their ablest defenders pass over successively to the standard of the enemy; and, when Kirwan had, almost last of all, abjured phlogiston, Priestley stood alone on the field of battle, and offered a new challenge, in a memoir addressed to the principal French chemists.

By a happy chance, the challenge was accepted, and on the field itself Mr. Adet, then Ambassador of France, in the United States, was also found a worthy representative of French chemistry, and replied to the new arguments raised against it. Almost all came from Priestley—so ingenious, and so adroit in every part of his transcendent system, of which he was the creator, because he was so little acquainted with the processes of modern chemistry. He took, for example, of fixed air, substances into which he suspected it did not enter, and afterwards denied that it always owes its existence to *carbon.* When he formed water of oxygen and hydrogen, he always found a small quantity of nitrous acid, and was unwilling to recognise the portion of azot by which it was produced.

His new publications did not bring back to his opinion those by whom it had been abandoned.

He felt, like many other men, who have endeavoured to fix the impressions made by themselves, that when ideas find a place in the mind, they resemble those seeds whose product depends on the laws of nature, and not upon the will of those by whom they have been sown. To which we may add, that when once they have taken root, no human power is able to eradicate them.

I am now, Gentlemen, arrived at the painful part of my task. You have seen Priestley march with astonishing success in the study of human knowledge to which he consecrated only some moments of leisure.

I am now to present him in another career; struggling against the nature of things, the first principles of which are concealed by a veil impenetrable to human reason; seeking to submit the world to his conjectures, consuming almost all his life in useless efforts, and at last precipitating himself in an abyss of misery.

Here, like him, I have need of all your indulgence. Perhaps the details into which I am now to enter, will appear to some a little foreign to the place in which I speak; but I conceive, that here particularly, the awful example they represent, ought to excite no small degree of interest.

I have already told you that Priestley was an ecclesiastic. I must add, that he passed successively through three religions before he determined to teach any.

Educated in all the severity of the presbyterian communion, which we name calvanist, whether he thought that he found too much to believe, or whether, from that period, he was determined to give a rigorous account of his creed, in his twentieth year he enlisted with the Arians, who, after having almost invaded Christendom, in the time of the successors of Constantine, have now no asylum but in England, and there decorated with the names of Milton, of Clarke, of Locke, and, as some say, of Newton; in modern times, they are in a certain degree indemnified for the loss of their ancient dominion.

Arianism, in declaring Christ a creature, thinks him nevertheless a being of a superior nature, produced before the world, and the organ of the creator in the production of other beings. This is the doctrine which is clothed with the sublime poetry of the

Paradise Lost. Priestley, after having long professed, at last abandoned it, to become a Unitarian, or what among us is called a Socinian.

Perhaps there are few of those who listen to me, who are informed of the difference between these two sects: it consists in this—the Socinians deny the pre-existence of Christ, and regard him as a man only, although they revere him as the Saviour of the world.

This nice shade between two heresies occupied, for thirty years, a head which had resolved the most important questions of science, and stimulated Priestley to write more volumes than he published on the different species of air.

His system is, that the primitive church was at first Unitarian, like that of the Jews, but remained so only for a short space of time; that the first adulteration of this doctrine proceeded from a mixture insensibly formed by the ideas of the Gnostics, who appeared, as we know, in the time of the Apostles, and who introduced into the west the principle of the Indian philosophy, that God, in the formation of the world, made use of intermediary agents; that, on the other hand, the Greek philosophy, in alliance with Christianity, personified the word, which, in the opinion of Plato and Christian Platonists, was no more than an abstract quality, an attribute, an act of the divinity; that the desire of doing greater honour to the legislator of the Christians, without too much changing the fundamental dogma of the unity of God, induced them to identify, with the person of Jesus, those imaginary beings; that, from this intermediate agency of the Gnostics, Arianism particularly sprang, whilst from the personification of the word resulted the consubstantiality of Athanasius and of the fathers of Nice, and, of consequence, the dogma of the Trinity.

Priestley was no less singular in the metaphysical part of his belief. True metaphysics in modern times have demonstrated, that it is as impossible for a thinking substance to know by itself its proper nature, as for the eye to see itself; because, for the purpose of contemplation, it would be necessary that it should go out of itself, and form a comparison with other beings; whilst, on the contrary, it is only in itself, or in its proper modifications, that it sees, or believes it sees them.

Priestley was either ignorant of those results, or had not examined them. According to him, the Scriptures and experience agree to form a material soul: the fibres of the brain are the depositaries of the images produced by the senses; the power which those fibres have of mutually exciting their vibrations, is the cause of the association of ideas. Mind perishes with the body, but it will again be re-produced on the day of the resurrection, in virtue of the will and the power of God. Till that period, we shall repose in absolute sleep; the distribution of rewards and punishments then only awaits us.

A material soul is submitted to the necessary empire of exterior agents: there is no free will, but absolute necessity in all our determinations. Why then, say they to him, rewards and punishments? it is precisely that we may have this determining cause in favour of virtue. We may then well suppose, he did not believe in the eternity of punishments.

It must be observed, that many of these dogmas, are those of the first Socinians, and that Priestley has done no more than support them with new arguments.

I have, doubtless, no need to decide on questions so often discussed, and so foreign to those studies which assemble us together. But it is my duty to mention that Priestley supported them but too ably: his adversaries themselves acknowledged his vast erudition, and his dextrous art in the combination and direction of his arguments: they unanimously speak of him as the ablest disputant of modern times, and one of the most dangerous enemies of the orthodox creed.

In the Catholic church, where authority alone is the judge of faith, writers of this kind are no longer formidable; for writings contrary to its dogmas remain unknown to the faithful. But in a Protestant country, where every thing is submitted to argumentation, there exists continually a species of intestine war: theologians are always

in arms: the empire of mind is a charm which is continually present to their ambition, and in which dialectics may yet make great conquests. It was that which apparently tempted Priestley, and who would not pardon him? Authority is so bewitching, and that of which persuasion alone is the instrument, appears so pleasant!

Perhaps he had also the weakness to think, that in times of incredulity, it is necessary to lighten faith, as during a storm, we clear the ship of the grosser part of her cargo. In effect, one would believe that, in rejecting so many tenets, he had only one step to make, to fall into absolute incredulity; but farther he did not advance: on the contrary, in theology, as in physics, he wished to be at his post, how perilous soever it might be, and trusted to his courage to defend it.* He could not suffer any person to stay behind, or to proceed farther than himself. Thus he attacked the orthodox, and repulsed the incredulous; and scarcely did there appear a publication in Europe, which seemed in the least directed either against revelation in general, or against his manner of explaining it in particular, that he did not think himself obliged to refute.

In this species of war, his activity knew no bounds: Atheists, Deists, Jews, Arians, Quakers, Methodists, Calvanists, Episcopalians and Catholics, he equally combatted. He has written against each of those particular creeds; and I would have difficulty in arriving at a conclusion, if I were only to mention their titles.

A proof of his having performed all this with good faith is, that he believed, that from the Scriptures, he could predict future events. Prophets who are not inspired, make predictions of a long term, that they may not be ridiculed during their lives.

Priestley, persuaded of the truth of this faculty, in 1799, published an address to the Jews, in which, according to the revelation of Daniel and St. John, he announced their approaching re-establishment in Palestine, the reunion of all sects, and the commencement of the reign of glory. Besides his calculation of years, which had some relation to the commencement of the 19th century, the symptoms of this great event were to be the destruction of Papal power, the overthrow of the Turkish Empire, and the kingdoms of Europe. The French monarchy, said he, which appeared so solid, has fallen, others will quickly follow: the Pope is dethroned and exiled: and the Turk subsists only by the sympathy of his neighbours. He himself lived to see some of those symptoms vanish.

I would, gentlemen, have disguised a part of these extraordinary details, if our *eloge* were not historical; if it were not prescribed to speak for, and against the character, as expressly ordained by the first and most illustrious of our predecessors.

Besides, is there not also some utility in seeing, by facts, to what length the best minds may suffer themselves to be drawn away, when they forsake those limits which Providence has marked out for the human understanding?

The wanderings of so noble a genius are a better safeguard than real misfortunes; for where is the generous man, who would not be willing to endure still greater hardships, if he were sure of announcing the truth, and promoting happiness?

It was not precisely the theology of Priestley which won the affections of his friends, and excited the hatred of his enemies, for, in England, the right of dogmatizing is common to all—but a system of politics which was closely connected with his theology; I mean the politics of Dissenters, which are almost always those of the opposition.

In France, it was believed, that Protestants were republicans by religion: they were so by oppression. In Ireland, the Catholics have this character, and the Protestants, who domineer over them, are royalists, becaue the king is of their party.

* The French writer, with all his prejudices against the system of Priestley, is yet more candid than many of the Doctor's country-men. For they have often charged him with a disbelief of Christianity, because he did not believe exactly as much as they did. Cuvier more fairly bears testimony to Dr. Priestley's adherence to the cause of revelation, although he explained it in a manner different from some others. E. M. M.

This natural opposition is, in England, more violent than elsewhere, precisely because the Dissenters are half tolerated, and only half. There, they are far removed from places of honour or of profit they are rigorously compelled to pay tithes for the support of a worship not their own: their children are not even admitted into the national university, and, in the mean time, they are numerous and wealthy: they assemble, they speak, they publish, and enjoy all the means of increasing their resentment.

Priestley, during thirty years, was their most eloquent organ, and we may say, the boldest pleader in their behalf. Twenty volumes on this subject have issued from his pen. In this sense only he wrote against those famous letters of Edmund Burke, in which the latter predicted, in a manner so frightful and so true, the miseries which were to result from the French revolution. Apparently they did not well understand, in Paris, the object of this answer of Priestley, for it was the means of admitting him to the rank of French citizen, and member of the convention, two titles which then did not seem very suitable to so ardent a defender of revelation, and universal toleration. In the mean time, he made use of the first, but eluded the exercise of the second, under the pretext that he had not a sufficient acquaintance with the French language.

Without pronouncing decisively on this point, I would observe, that the political writings of Priestley unite a rare moderation in terms, to a loyalty in sentiment, not less rare.

He demands nothing for the Protestant Dissenters which he does not equally demand for the Catholics, and even with more force, because they suffer more. No Catholic has painted more lively than he the oppression under which nine tenths of the people of Ireland have long groaned.

I know not whether the Catholics were much attached to a Unitarian for these efforts in their favour; but it is easy to conceive, that the extension of his benevolence was not fitted for a reconciliation with those of the English pale; for the hatred of the high church was almost wholly directed against his person: all who wrote against him were sure of a rich reward; many of them had even bishopricks conferred upon them, which made him say (in pleasantry) that it was he who held the list of of the benefices of England. But the aversion which he inspired, was not bounded by lawful means, and it appears but too true, that the writings and fanatical sermons of some episcopal ministers, contributed to create those vexations of which he was the victim.

It was at that epoch when the commencement of the French Revolution had not divided France only, but all the states, and towns, and I may say, all the families of Europe.

The war was then confined to France, but they disputed in all countries; and a singular thing it was, that among nations the most free, they showed the greatest ardour for revolution. It was at a moment When the British government saw no other resource, than in those means which then served so well the purpose of the enemies of the government of France. Those who were revolutionists, or who were considered as such, were assailed by a mob.

One of the most terrible was that of Birmingham of the 14th of July, 1791. Some individuals of different sects, among whom were also Bishops, celebrated a banquet in honour of our revolution.* It was published abroad, that Priestley was the promoter of this *fête:* billets of invitation, couched in the most seditious terms, were forged, and attributed to him. It was declared, that the most absurd or criminal toasts were given, which was boldly contradicted by those who were present.

An enraged populace assembles from all quarters; calumny circulates and increases; there is no horror of which the guests are not accused.—

* There appears some inaccuracy in this statement. No Bishops attended the *fête* at Birmingham. Dr. Priestley himself speaks "of the celebration of the anniversary of the French revolution, by several of his friends, but with which he had little to do."

The house, in which they were assembled, is attacked, broken open, and desolated: the furious multitude only repeats the name of Priestley; he is a dissenting minister, the chief of revolutionists; on him the hatred of Englishmen has long been concentered: now is the moment for revenge!

The unfortunate old man was so much a stranger to what was imputed to him, on this occasion, that he knew not even what took place in the town, and had not been present at the feast; but the seditious troop listen to nothing: they suppose he has escaped; supplied with torches, and all the instruments of destruction, they fly to his house.

It was a modest country seat, the fruit of the savings of his frugality, situated at the distance of half a mile from the town: there he lived, with his wife and two sons, in all the simplicity of ancient manners. It was there he had received the homage of so many travellers, illustrious by their birth, or by their fortune, who were unwilling to quit England without being acquainted with this great man. It was there where, during eleven years, his hours were divided between the study of the sciences, the education of youth, and the exercise of charity, the principal duty of his ministry.

His place exhibited an incomparable ornament, and only one; this was the immense collection of instruments, most of which were invented, or constructed by himself; the storehouse from which issued so many new truths, so many discoveries, useful to those frantick people themselves; for almost all were artizans of Birmingham, and among the numerous manufactures in this town, there is scarcely one, the process of which has not been improved by the discoveries of Priestley.

But against the spirit of party what can gratitude perform? Does a *mob* know any thing of his services in this line? All is reduced to dust!—The apparatus in use for many months, and which was to resolve important questions, was immediately destroyed; the registers of observations, kept during many years, were delivered to the flames; half finished works, a considerable collection of books, with notes, additions, and commentaries, underwent the same fate. In a few minutes, the whole house was burned or razed to the ground.

How frightful was the moment!—An old man, in his seventieth year,* sees in an instant extinguished that which had been procured by fifty years of assiduity, and the economy of a whole life; not his moderate fortune, for that was nothing; but the work of his hands, the conceptions of his mind; all that he reserved of thought and experience for the meditation of the remainder of his days. His family, whom he had conducted to some distance from the approach of the mob, were still gazing at this horrible spectacle.

The tumult lasted during three days, and the houses of his friends experienced the fate of his. As it always happens, it was the victims who were accused, and the journals failed not to announce, that among the papers of Priestley were found proofs of a great conspiracy.

This calumny was sufficiently refuted by his publick residence, during two years, in the dissenters' college of Hackney, near London, where he gave lessons on chemistry, and as minister, occupied the place of the celebrated Dr. Price. He could at all times, have been brought to justice, and their benevolence would not have prevented this, if the least proof could have been produced against him.

They contented themselves with painting him in the most frightful colours, in periodical writings, and political pamphlets. There are few examples of so violent a hatred;—and such animosity against a man who was so great an honour to England, would be inexplicable, if during fifteen years, we were not furnished with many examples of the influence of the spirit of party in poisoning every opinion; if fifteen centuries had not evinced, to what degree of fury, accusations may be carried, when the pretext is sacred.

* At the time of the riots, he was only in his 59th year. B.M.M.

There was nothing personal in his character which could draw upon him such vengeance; his controversies had no influence over his feelings, and as a proof of this, it may be observed, that although they often wrote against each other, he and Dr. Price were always friends.

Far from having any thing in his manners that was proud or turbulent, he showed, in his conversation all the modesty of his writings; and nothing was more easy or common to him than these words—*I know not;* a phrase which few of those, whose profession is literature, know how to pronounce. His physiognomy bore more the impression of melancholy than of inquietude, and he was not averse to the society of a few friends, nor to the pleasant gaiety of open conversation. This man, so profound in many branches of science, passed several hours every day in instructing children. This was the occupation with which he was always most pleased, and his scholars venerated him with a filial tenderness, many of them even with genuine enthusiasm.

But he was arrested by no consideration when he thought he had some truth to defend, and this trait of character, so respectable in itself, extinguished the effect of his amiable qualities, and proved the torment of his life; because he pursued it to an extreme, because he forgot, that reason is but the least of those means which are necessary for the reception of opinions, that attack the habits, or the momentary interests of men.

The insults heaped upon him, and the fear of again endangering the life and fortune of his friends, made his residence, in his native country intolerable. His new establishment at Hackney, where by patience and industry he had already repaired a part of the disasters at Birmingham, could no longer retain him; and to come to France, during a state of war, would have justified all the imputations of his enemies: he could anticipate no repose but in the United States of America, and some time elapsed, before he found it there: English prejudices pursued him across the seas, and till the event of the election of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency of the United States, he was not without fear of being forced to abandon that asylum.

The dedication of his *Church History* to this great magistrate, in gratitude for the tranquillity he enjoyed, and the answer of Mr. Jefferson, offer the finest models of friendly relations which may exist between men of letters and statesmen, without disparaging either.

Priestley proposed to consecrate the rest of his life to this work, in which he could combine, in one whole, the developements and proofs of his theological opinions; but he was stopt in his fourth volume, by a fatal accident.* His aliment was one day, by unknown means poisoned; all his family were in danger, and himself, from that period, did nought but languish. After three years of suffering, a gradual decay terminated his days.

His last moments were filled up with the overflowings of that piety which had animated all the former part of his life, and which, because it was not well regulated, was the cause of all its errors. He heard the scriptures read, and thanked God for having given him a useful life, and a peaceable death. He placed in the list of the principal benefits he received from the Supreme Being, that of being personally acquainted with almost all his celebrated contemporaries. *I go to sleep like you,* said he to his grand-children, whom they were conducting to their repose; *but,* added he, looking at the bye-standers, *we shall awake together, and I hope, for the enjoyment of eternal happiness;* thus giving another testimony to the sincerity of the belief in which he died. These were his last words.

Such was the end of a man, whom his enemies long accused of plan-

* This relation is probably a mistake. In the continuation of the Memoirs of his life by his son, no mention is made of it. He speaks of his having a violent attack of fever at Philadelphia in the Spring of 1801, which weakened him considerably. Indigestion followed, and increased to the period of his death, which was supposed to have been occasioned by a stoppage in the œsophagus. E.M.R.

ning the destruction of all religion, and morality, and whose greatest error was in forgetting his vocation, and in attaching too much importance to particular opinions on subjects, concerning which the most important of all sentiments, is the love of peace.*

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Messrs. Phillip Londen, sen. and jun. of Chelsea, for new and improved methods of manufacturing Muriate of Soda, or common salt, dated April, 1809.

THE specification of this patent states the new method of manufacturing sea salt, to consist in purifying rock salt, or that obtained from brine springs, sea water, &c. by fusion and calcination; and by the application of soda, its nitrate, sulphate, or carbonate, or any other of its combinations; potash, volatile alkali, lime, or their sulphates, nitrates, carbonates, or their other combinations; or by the addition of any other material or re-agents, that will effect the decomposition, precipitation, or separation of the whole or part of the earths and metals, or earthy or metallic salts, combined with the muriate of soda; which re-agents, or any of them, we apply, at any part of the processes hereafter mentioned, as circumstances may require.

The sea-salt, with the necessary re-agents and materials, is to be put into a reverboratory furnace, or into any suitable vessel, and brought to a state of fusion, and kept so for a sufficient time, so that the earthy and metallic parts may be precipitated, or separated. The salt is then drawn off into proper vessels as long as it continues to come off fit and clear (or it may remain in the furnace to cool) leaving the sediment of the precipitated, earthy, and metallic matter, with some muriate of Soda. Afterwards the salt, so purified, may be broken into grains for common use. This process may be managed so as to produce salt of any inferior degree of purity, by properly regulating the heat. The salt remaining, with the impure residue, may be recovered by solution and evaporation; or where less purity is required, calcination alone may be emyloyed, and the salt afterwards be farther refined by solution and evaporation.

The salt refined in this manner, the patentee asserts, will be purer, and more fit for curing fish and provisions, and for common use, than any small salt at present manufactured; and that its use may supercede the necessity of importing any foreign bay salt altogether.

Observations. The specification of this patent is an instance of obscurity, either effected for the unjust purpose of concealing the process, or ignorantly incurred by attempting to monopolize every possible method of applying it. Patentees, by attempts, such as this, at steering along the very utmost limits of law, frequently defeat their designs,

* Had such timid counsels prevailed with the reformers of the various ages, the work of reformation and of approximation towards truth, would not have advanced; and an error once adopted would never be eradicated. In metaphysical and theological investigations much may remain to elude the strictest research; but many advances may be made in this knowledge if mankind were as much engaged in the discovery of religious, as other truth. They who would not trust another to make a bargain for them by which their pecuniary interests might be endangered, will yet confide implicitly in the opinion of others in religion; and, adopting a traditionary belief, surrender our noble privilege to examine. Cuvier through the entire of this sketch, so interesting, and truly liberal, in other respects adopts the plan, of submiting to authority in matters of religion.

E.M.M.

and shipwreck their patents where they least expect it. If any of the substances mentioned to be mixed with it, can be of any use in the purification of salt by calcination, or improve its quality, it is evident to any person in the least acquainted with chemistry, that they cannot all be so, being of such different natures, and that all that are not so, are inserted either from ignorance, or for concealment.

Sulphate of lime, for instance, one of the substances above stated, by a process very similar, in which heat alone is used, contrived by an eminent German chemist, named Funcke, produces sulphate of soda from sea-salt combined with it, and would probably have the same effect in Mr. Londen's method, instead of that he proposes: most of the other sulphates mentioned by him would most likely have the same effect; and if any of them did so, it would form a formidable ground for the invalidation of the patent, on the same principle as that, on which Mr. Turner's patent for his yellow pigment (muriate of lead) was set aside.

The nitrates directed would be of use in accelerating the calcination of the metallic substances united to the salt, but would cost too much for any profitable application. The addition of soda is objectionable on the last ground, even if it could be of any use; on the contrary, its probable effect would be to weaken the salt, by depriving it of some of its muriatic acid. Indeed the whole process is calculated to have this latter effect; wherefore Mr. Londen's salt, instead of being stronger and better than bay salt, probably would be considerably inferior to it, since it is well known that the circumstance which gives bay salt its superiority, in preserving fish and provisions, over common pan-salt, is the greater proportion of muriatic acid it contains; which is usually attributed to its not having been exposed to any heat above that which the action of the sun is capable of giving to sea water; which heat is not sufficient to separate any part of the muriatic acid from its combination with the soda in the sea salt. When the heat of boiling water in the pans is found to have so great an effect in injuring the quality of the salt, it is fair to conclude that the power of the very high temperature of calcination in this respect would be much greater.

Patent of Mr. Cobb, junr. of Banbury Oxfordshire, for improvements in the art of making Paper, dated December 1807.

In Mr. Cobb's method of making paper the pulp runs out of a large vat, in which it is prepared into a smaller one by a cock, or otherway, for the immediate purpose of manufacture, two cylindrical agitators are placed horizontally in the large vat, and one in the small one, to keep the pulp duly suspended; and on one side of the smaller vat the pulp is permitted to flow out through regulated apertures into a small trough, where its motion is checked by an inclined plane or sloped piece, from which the pulp flows over another inclined surface into a paper mould, which is moved forward by an endless web passing over rollers placed at the two ends of a horizontal frame; which frame is kept in a state of rapid agitation back and forwards, during the working of the machinery, by a crank and a re-acting spring, or other means. When the mould has passed to the end of the first endless web, it is received by another moving over-fixed rollers, towards the termination of its passage above which it encounters an endless web of felt, whose plane of direction downwards is in an angle of about 20 degrees to that of the first web, and which in the same manner passes over rollers, the lowest of which is pressed into close contact with the paper mould, by another roller placed beneath the web which sustains the mould. By this means the sheet of pulp loses some of its moisture and adheres to the felt web, which brings it upwards along a slope of about 45 degrees, till it is on a level with the highest roller, and then passing on horizontally draws it between one, or more pairs of rollers, whose action renders the sheet sufficiently firm to be taken off by a workman standing at the upper roller, who lays it in the usual manner. The paper mould, after the soft sheet is taken from it by the felt web,

passes on to the roller at the extremity of the first web, near which a detached roller receives its most advanced end, and its other end being made the heaviest, causes it to fall down with this heavy end foremost, on another endless web passing over rollers in the same manner, but in a contrary direction, which brings it back again beneath the small vat to a place where a workman stands, to place the moulds on the first web, which is to convey them beneath the trough, where they receive the pulp.

Another method is described in the specification of pressing the soft sheet, by the action of a platform forced vertically against another, that lies beneath the first endless web, instead of by the operation of the rollers above described; but the first mode detailed here seems preferable to the other from its requiring less attendance. An Horizontal trough is placed at the lowest part of the felt web, and at the other parts of the apparatus which require it, to receive the water which may be pressed out of the paper by the before-mentioned operations.

The wire web of the mould, instead of being nailed at the top of the frame, is turned over, and fastened at the sides, the frame is brought to an edge at its upper part, and its whole outside is covered with thin metal; on which another frame of wood or metal is placed, which slides up and down, and forms the deckle, which by pressure or re-action, from the bearing parts of the agitable frame along which the first endless web conveys it, is made to stand a little above the face, when the mould is placed in the situation to receive its charge, and is suffered to slide back, for want of the like pressure or re-action, when the mould arrives at the felt web, which couches the paper. The means of putting the machinery in motion is not described, but may be easily conceived by any person acquainted with Engines; and is left to the judgment of the person who constructs it, as is also the choice of the materials proper for each of its parts.

Remarks. The chief principles of the machinery described in the above specification, are evidently derived from the methods recounted in those of the patents of Mr. Bramah, and of Messrs. Fourdronier, taken out some time before for the same purposes. Mr. Cobb has however simplified their processes, as well as the machinery used in them, by a judicious introduction of manual labour at certain parts of the operation, but whether this will be sufficient to constitute a new patent right must be left to legal decision.

Patent of Mr. Mark Dobito, of Kirtling, Cambridgeshire, for an Improved Plough, for underdraining land. Dated June, 1809.

The apparatus described in Mr. Dobito's specification, may be divided into two parts, the first consists of a mole plough, which differs only from that which has been for some time in use in England, in having a roller beneath the head of the beam, and another beneath the heel of the handle, to sustain the beam at the surface of the earth, as the plough is drawn forward, of which the acting parts are a horizontal conical piece of iron attached to the beam by a vertical flat piece, like a coulter, by which its depth can be regulated, and a cutting coulter placed farther forward in the usual manner. The other part of the apparatus is a moveable capstan, placed on a frame furnished with low wheels, which is capable of being fixed at any station required, by one or more anchors with a single fluke, and by props behind, which press against the earth at a very small angle of inclination. The plough is to be drawn forward by a rope or chain, extending from it, and rolled round the barrel of the capstan, by the action of men or horses at the bars.

Remarks. In a country such as China, where agriculture is almost totally carried on by manual labour, such an apparatus as this might be of use; but where horses can be hired at a reasonable rate, it would certainly be more advantageous to encrease the number of horses, in proportion to the force required in moving forward the mole plough, than to use any machinery which would require so

much time in fixing it at each station, and in unfixing it again, and moving it from place to place, as this capstan would demand. The addition of the rollers to the mole plough seems an useful improvement, and there can be no doubt but that this plough by itself, independent of the capstan, drawn forward in the usual manner, would perform very well.

Patent of Mr. Samuel Clegg, of Manchester, for a Rotative Steam Engine, Dated July, 1809.

The piston of Mr. Clegg's Steam Engine, revolves horizontally in a hollow ring of cast iron, the vertical section of which is a semicircle; this piston is of the same shape as the ring, and is attached to a vertical axis in the centre by a flat bar, that lies between the upper plate of the engine, and the hollow ring. To prevent the steam from passing in the space about this connecting part, a number of upright pieces of metal, rounded a little at their bottoms, are placed all round in a smaller hollow ring, of a rectangular section, in contact and capable only of a verticle motion; the connecting part has a small roller in front, which passes under these upright pieces, and lifts them up in succession, and their own weight, assisted by springs at top, causes them to fall again into their first positions, as fast as the connector passes. Water is let in over them to keep the joints closer.

In the large hollow ring, a semicircular valve is placed on a hinge, which fits it exactly, and is capable of being moved up into a recess in the covering flat plate made to fit it. The steam is let in between this valve and the piston, which acquires momentum sufficient, before it comes round to it behind, to raise it up and pass beyond it; when it falls down again, and the action of the steam re-commences. The piston is represented of considerable bulk, with a view, it is supposed of encreasing the momentum so as to supply the action of a fly wheel. The power of the engine can be encreased by making a communication between a condenser, and the part of the large hollow ring at the opposite side of the valve from that at which the steam is admitted. The shaft or axis in the centre gives motion to the pumps, steam valve, and all other requisite movements. The engine may be made to work by the pressure of a column of water introduced instead of steam.

The patentee states that he finds these engines answer in practice all the intended ends; that they cost only half the price of beam engines, take up little room, and make no noise; he mentions also that the space through which a piston of an engine of twenty horses power moves, will generally be about twenty feet.

Remarks. No account is given of any method of stuffing the piston, and it is apprehended this would not be easily affected, or readily kept tight from the shape of this part. The complication of the upright sliding poppets, to close the path of the connector, is also very objectionable; and however perfectly the engine might work at first, while these parts were new and nicely fitted, there can be little doubt but that from their constant motion they would be soon worn so much as to let much steam escape to a loss, and that, if the engine did not actually stop from this circumstance, its powers for the same expense of fuel would be considerably inferior to those of Watt's beam engines.

On Electro Chemical Experiments, by Mr. G. J. Singer.

Phil. Jour. v. 24, p. 174.

Mr. Singer has found, that the prevalent idea of a powerful Voltaic battery being necessary for the repetition of the new experiments, is mistaken, and that when the requisite precations are observed, an apparatus of very moderate powers is sufficient.

The mode of employing the Voltaic battery at present in use, is by far the worst, when it is intended for experiments of decomposition; as this operation requires a continued action of a power of nearly uniform intensity, which but rarely occurs in the ordinary mode of charging.

Most experimenters estimate the acting power, and the best state of their apparatus by the length of wire which it will fuse. To obtain this object, a strong acid infusion is employed, when the battery is not of

great extent. This produces violent action for a short time, but which gradually decreases, and in a very limited period ceases altogether. But the power thus excited is by no means desirable for the performance of brilliant experiments; for the most extensive and interesting class of chemical compounds are either partial conductors, or non-conductors, on which this intense action will be found less efficacious than a continued one of moderate intensity.

The most active wire-melting power, Mr. Singer found to be excited by a mixture of one part of strong nitrous acid to ten parts of water.

A battery charged by nitric acid fused more wire than one charged by an equal portion of sulphuric acid, and this again more than one excited by the same quantity of muriatic acid: their action on imperfect conductors was nearly the same. At the end of fourteen hours they were again tried; the battery charged with nitric acid had completely lost the power of melting wire, as also had that charged by sulphuric acid; and neither of them exerted more than a feeble action on imperfect conductors; but the battery charged with muriatic acid, to the great surprize of Mr. Singer, melted two thirds of the length of wire it had melted at first, and appeared to decompose water with equal rapidity. The three batteries were suffered to remain for two days longer, at the end of which time the two first had totally lost their acting power, but the last still melted one third of the original length of wire, and continued to melt wire till the fourth day: Its action on imperfect conductors was still evident after six days, when the experiments were discontinued. In all these experiments, the plates were lifted out of the acid during the intervals. It was a long time before the batteries in which the nitric and sulphuric acids had been used, could be brought to an equal continuance of action; their powers appeared to be exhausted, and their action comparatively feeble; but by perseverance in the use of the muriatic acid, they were at length brought to an equal uniformity of action.

For the decomposition of potash, it is necessary that the proportion of the acid to the water should vary according to the number of plates employed. For any power not exceeding 200 plates of four inches, the proportion should be from 8 to 10 ounces of muriatic acid to every gallon of water. But if 300, 400, or any greator number of plates be used, the quantity of acid should be proportionally less, or the heat produced will destroy the metallic globules, at the moment of their production.

In the first experiments made on Potash by Mr. Singer, the operation was performed under naptha, but in this way he found that the naptha was decomposed more rapidly than the potash and that the quantity of carbon liberated embarrassed the result. Mr. S. always operates now in the open air, and uses conductors of silver which he finds preferable to platina. A flat silver plate, or spoon is connected with the negative; (the copper) surface of the battery. On this a small piece of potash is placed, not moistened, and a communication is made by a silver wire from the positive surface. In about a minute the globules will begin to appear, and when they cease to grow larger, they should be removed on the point of a silver knife into a watch glass filled with Naptha, when globules do not appear, the communication should be continued for five or ten minutes, when the potash being taken from the spoon, the side which was in contact with it will be found studded with metallic globules. By operating in this manner Mr. Singer soon found that a much lower power, than he before suspected, was sufficient. Metallic globules were produced by a glass partitioned battery of 50 pairs of 4 inch plates. This result induced trials with less powers, and by carefully conducting the process Mr. S. procured globules by a battery of 50 pairs of 3 inch plates, which had moreover the disadvantage of having been much corroded by firmer operations. The metallization of the alkaline earths, and of ammonia, by amalgamation with mercury may be also effected by this latter battery. The transfer

of acid and alkali may be likewise shown by it, which is best done by the following means.

To a pint of water add two or three drops of sulphuric acid, and infuse in it as many leaves of minced red cabbage as it will cover. In a day or two the water will be tinged of a fine red colour, decant the liquor and preserve it in a bottle closely stopped, when the experiment is to be performed, a portion of the red tincture is to be neutralized, by carefully adding a few drops of ammonia, till it assumes a blue colour. Two watch glasses, connected by a moistened fibre of cotton, or bibulous paper, are to be filled with this fluid, and placed in the Voltaic circuit by connecting one of them with the negative, and the other with the positive wire of the battery. In a short time the alkali attracted by the negative wire, will convert the fluid it touches to a green colour, while positive wire will convert that in the other glass to a fine red, by attracting the acid. In about an hour the transfer will be complete, the fluid in the positive cup being of a bright red, and that in the negative cup of a beautiful green. If the situation of the wires is reversed the red coloured liquor will become green, and the green red, after each becoming blue first. This alternate transfer of colour, which may be several times repeated with one charge, has been frequently produced by a single trough of only 30 pairs of two inch plates.

Observations....This paper of Mr. Singers contains the latest discoveries relative to the management of the Voltaic apparatus, and is particularly remarkable for pointing out the singular property muriatic acid possesses, of continuing the action of the trough; and in showing very simple and cheap means by which all the new Electro-chemical experiments may be performed.

On the influence which the shape of a still has on the quality of the product of Distillation by M. Curaudau.

*Sommini's Journal, Tom.*1 *p.*106.

M. Curaudau states that he was so entirely convinced of the advantage of the broad shallow stills, proposed by M. Chaptal that he recommended them in his writings without hesitation. Further experience, however, has proved to him that they have inconveniences which render them less fit for the distillation of wine, than the stills in common use.

In deep stills the liquor at a certain time receives more heat than it gives off by evaporation; the temperature then may rise, till it reaches the term at which the ebullition is complete, an essential condition for effecting the combination of the alcohol with the aroma of the wine. Distillation is doubtlessly performed quicker in shallow stills, but the brandy obtained in this method, contains nothing or next to nothing of that aroma which is so grateful to the smell, and communicates the agreeable flavour, that distinguishes well made brandy.

To prove these facts M. Curaudau subjected to distillation a quantity of wine, part in a shallow still, and part in a still of the common construction; when the distillation was concluded, the products were examined by several different persons, all of whom decidedly gave the preference to the brandy produced by the common deep still: this is accounted for from the evaporation being very abundant in the shallow still, at an heat of from 45° to 55° Reaumur (133° to 156° F.) while in the deep still it does not begin to be copious till the heat is from 70° to 75° (190° or 200° F.)

Experience proves that ebullition is necessary to extract the alcohol from the wine. This boiling favours the combination of the aroma, from the re-action, and new combination which it occasions. M. Curaudau attributes the difference of the heat to which the liquor can be brought in the deep and in the shallow stills, to the greater evaporation of the latter which always keeps pace with the heat produced, or in other words, encreasing the fire under it only accelerates the evaporation without adding to the heat of the liquor. From his experiments and observations, M. Curaudau concludes.

1. That shallow alembics, though fit for the distillation of certain fermented liquors may sometimes alter the products of distillation.

2, That the inconveniences of employing shallow vessels in distilling wines, arise from the facility, with which evaporation takes place in them.

3, That a high temperature is always necessary to carry over the peculiar aroma of the wine, and perhaps too that arising from the action of heat in the principles of the wine.

4, That deep alembics ought to be preferred to shallow ones for the distillation of wine.

5, Lastly that the best dimensions of an alembic (for wine) with regard to figure, must be such, that the surface of the liquor heated shall be constantly greater than that from which the evaporation takes place, and we may for instance take it as a rule that the proportion between the two should be as four to one.

Remarks....The translator of the above paper for Nicholson's journal, observes that "though deep stills are best for distilling those simple or spirituous waters, where a full impregnation with the peculiar flavour of the vegetable substance employed is desirable; yet that from the above paper it is evident that a shallow still is preferable where the object is to prevent as much as possible the peculiar flavour of the liquor distilled from rising, as in distilling from malt and from molosses, the common materials in our country, and this not only on account of the saving in time and fuel, but of the superiority in point of flavour. The proper proportions for the deep stills for the finer kinds of the first mentioned articles, may deserve a more particular inquiry."

Mr. Curaudau has not been very happy in accounting for the greater heat, which the liquor in deep stills, is capable of acquiring, as by way of a cause he has merely stated an effect; the real cause is the greater pressure, which the increased depth of the liquor occasioned, affording more resistance to the motion of the heat, or hot steam, in its passage from the bottom of the alembic to the surface.

Account of a New Musical Instrument, called a Clavo-cylinder, invented by M. Chladni.

M. Chladni describes his invention in the following terms;

"The Clavi-cylinder contains a set of keys, and behind them a glass cylinder, seven centimeters (about three inches) in diameter, which is turned by means of a pedal, and loaded wheel. This cylinder is not the sounding body, but it produces the sound by friction on the interior mechanism. The sounds may be prolonged at pleasure, with all the gradations of *crescendo*, and *diminuendo*, in proportion as the pressure on the keys is increased or diminished. This instrument is never out of tune. It contains four octaves and an half, from *ut*, the lowest in the harpsichord, up to *fa*."

The imperial conservatory of music at Paris, have made a very favourable report of M. Chladni's invention, which report describes it as resembling the flute and clarionet in the high notes, and the bassoon in the low notes; but also states that it is not so well adapted for lively strains, as for solemn music. They however, highly praise its effects in the *crescendo* and *diminuendo*.

Remarks....Our late ingenious countryman, Mr. Clagget of Waterford, contrived and made several duplicates of an instrument, which possessed most of the properties of M. Chladni's Clavi cylinder. It was called an *Aiauton*, and it consisted of tuning forks of various sizes, suitable to the different notes, over which a rozined silk band was moved by a crank and pedal, and was brought into contact with any one desired, by pressing the corresponding key. It seems very probable, from the effects of M. Chladni's instrument, corresponding so exactly with those of this, that the sounding parts are the same in both, and that they only differ in the glass cylinder in the French instrument being substituted for the silk band, of that contrived first by Mr Clagget.

On deal Pendulum Rods, by Mr. E. Walker. *Phil. Mag. v. 34, p. 2.*

Mr. Walker, in the beginning of

this paper, has inserted a table, of the greatest variations in the daily rate of the transit clock at the Royal Observatory of Greenwich, from which it appears that the mean annual variation in its daily rate for six years is =3° 9″. The mean annual variation of Mr. Walker's clock with a deal pendulum rod (of which an account is given in the Philosophical Magazine, vol. 54, p. 30) is = 5° 41″, consequently the transit clock at the Royal Observatory, went only 1° 51″ per annum nearer true time than the clock with a deal pendulum rod. Mr. Walker then observes, that this is not a matter which need astonish any one who understands the construction of the two pendulums.

"In the grid-iron pendulum there is some friction, which ought always to be avoided in any compensation applied to time-keepers: and moreover the length of the pendulum may be encreased by its own weight; indeed the great number of times that the bob of the transit clock at the royal observatory has been raised, renders this supposition more than probable.

In a pendulum with a wooden rod there is no friction; and as my pendulum was not altered during six successive years, except by the vicissitudes of dryness and moisture, the weight of the bob, or lens, had no tendency to encrease the length of the rod. And it may be further observed, that as the cleaning of the clock made no alteration in its daily rate, it seems probable that the pendulum is the only part of it which measures the time into equal portions.

Mr. Walker then relates, as follows, the method by which he determined that the alteration in the length of his pendulum was caused by the vicissitudes of dryness and moisture, and not by those of heat and cold. After stating, that philosophical instruments were not always necessary for investigating the operations of nature:

"My clock stands in a room in which there has been no fire for many years. In this situation the mahogany clock-case acts as a hygrometer. For in the dryest season of the year, the door is so constructed as not to touch one side of the case; but when the atmosphere is very moist, the door is so much increased in breadth, that it cannot be opened without using a force that might alter the rate of the clock.

"When the door was too little for the clock-case, the clock always gained of true time, but it always lost when the door could not be opened. Hence it is evident, that a damp atmosphere, which increased the breadth of the clock-case door, increased the length of the pendulum rod; and a dry atmosphere, which contracted the breadth of the door, contracted at the same time the length of the deal pendulum rod.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

CONVERSION ON SLIGHT GROUNDS, AND AS SLIGHT A RE-CONVERSION.

A WOMAN had been won over from Popery to Calvinism, not by any rational argument, but by a scruple thrown in her way, by her husband. "Ye call the Pope his holiness," said he, "what impiety! for is it not said in scripture, holiness to the lord?" The woman was struck with these words, and became a violent Presbyterian. Her parents, and friends bewailed her apostacy and with tears requested Dr. Geddes to try to reclaim her. He replied, "I shall certainly speak to her, but if she have conscientiously changed her religion, neither ye nor I have a right to condemn her."

He took an opportunity to accost her, and simply asked, why she had left the Catholic communion? She answered, "it is because ye call the Pope his holiness." "Is that all?" said the Dr. smiling, "your motive is none of the strongest: the title you have boggled at, is a mere title of distinction: not annexed to the person of the Pope, but his high function. Thus we call the king, his sacred majesty, a title far more august than that of his holiness. Be-

sides are we not called to holiness, by the word of God? Be ye holy, because I am holy!" The woman thought the reasoning was forcible, and returned to the bosom of old mother church. The Doctor in relating this anecdote, adds "How many conversions and re-conversions have been made on motives as light and insignificant."

THE TRUE GLORY OF PRINCES.

Princes are more amiable when they are engaged in saving men's lives, than amid the splendid and delusive glories of war. Francis I. emperor of Germany, grandfather to the present emperor of Austria, although not noted for his warlike qualities, furnishes us with the following amiable traits, which history records to his lasting credit.

A fire having burst forth in a magazine of saltpetre at Vienna, Francis hastened to the spot, and as he advanced to give his orders, one of his suite represented to him that he too much exposed his person; "Do not," the emperor replied, "be alarmed for me, but for those poor wretches whom it will be difficult to save." During the depth of winter a violent inundation overflowed the suburbs, and the waters rising to an extraordinary height, many could only save themselves by taking refuge on the tops of the houses. For three days they remained in that dreadful situation, without nourishment; the rapidity of the stream, and the floating masses of ice, rendering the passage so dangerous, that the most intrepid boatmen could not be persuaded by any recompence to expose themselves. In this imminent peril Francis threw himself into a boat, and exclaiming, "I trust my example will not be lost," rowed over to the opposite shore; his example had its due effect; the boatmen no longer hesitated to encounter the same danger as the emperor, and the people were saved. If the study of history is useful, it is particularly so when it records examples of courage springing from humanity, and where the foremost in rank is the first to distinguish himself in braving danger, or in acts of benvolence.

INCONSISTENCY IN CHARACTER.

Maria Theresa, the empress, queen of Hungary, who, to gratify her ambition was engaged in so many destructive wars, and was so prodigal of the waste of human blood, was yet alive to the feelings of benevolence, when her malignant passions were not called into action. Such benevolent acts afford relief in reading history, which Dr. Johnson justly called, "Annals of blood." They appear like spots of refreshing verdure amid the general barren waste.

On the recovery of her children from the small-pox, a disorder so fatal to her own family, Maria Theresa, gave an entertainment. Sixty-five children, who had been previously inoculated at the hospital, were regaled with a dinner in the gallery of the palace at Schoenbrun, in the midst of a numerous court, and Maria Theresa herself, assisted by her offspring, waited on this delightful groupe, and gave to each of them a piece of money. The parents of the children were treated in another apartment; the whole party was admitted to the performance of a German play; and this charming entertainment was concluded with a dance, which was protracted till midnight.

This high-minded princess, Maria Theresa, who observed the forms of religion with punctilious ceremony, and affected to be considered very pious, entered into a correspondence with Madame Pompadour, the mistress of Louis XV. to serve a political purpose. Such is the inconsistency of those, who under the influence of ambition, stoop to acts of the greatest meanness. Thus we behold this haughty princess, promoting the destruction of men, and saving the lives of a few children: affecting great zeal in her devotions, and yet openly holding correspondence with the base and immoral Pompadour. Surely ambition causes its votaries to act very inconsistently.

It is however to be recorded, to the honour of Maria Theresa, that in her old age she became more inclined to peace, and exerted herself to prevent a war between her son, the emperor Joseph, and her old antagonist, Frederic. She wrote a private letter to the latter, to promote an amicable negociation, and dispatched a messen-

ger to express her regret, "that Frederic and herself were going to tear the grey hairs from each others head."

A POWERFUL ARGUMENT.

"He proves his church true orthodox,
By apostolic blows and knocks."

At an ordination by the presbytery of ———, in the north of Ireland, the *reverend* body retired to dinner, after which one of them, with a zeal heated by the enjoyments of the table, started on his feet, and exclaimed, "I hear that some in this company deny the divinity of Christ, let me see the man who dare avow such a sentiment, and I will give him a complete beating." No one ventured to encounter such formidable arguments, and the champion of orthodoxy obtained an undisputed victory.

PHYSIOGNOMY, A FALLACIOUS TEST OF CHARACTER.

General Loudon, who so often, as leader of the Austrian armies, successfully opposed Frederic II. of Prussia, generally called Frederic the Great, previously to his entering into the Austrian service, offered himself to Frederic, who contemptuously turned away, and said to his suit: "That man's physiognomy does not please me." The king had reason to repent of this refusal, and the candour to avow his regret.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

KITTY, LOVELY BLUE-EYED MAID.

WHEN Kitty, Blue-eyed maid appears!
Fair Kitty, graceful, artless, gay,
Then thrilling joys, and tor'tring fears,
My soul by turns alternate sway.

When blue-eyed Kitty leads the dance,
My fancy paints an angel form;
When Kitty deigns a tender glance,
Re-kindling joys my fancy warm.

Kitty, of Erin's charming maids,
The loveliest, and the fairest now;
When the nipt bloom of beauty fades,
Virtue shall dignify thy brow.

For Kitty, virtue's voice obeys,
Virtue that noblest, richest pearl;
Sweet innocence adorns thy days,
Fair Kitty, lovely blue-eyed girl.

Nature naught can from change restrain!
And Kitty, too, thy charms will fade!
No!—they'll a lasting tinge retain,
For Virtue, guards thee, blue-eyed maid.

THE following short descriptive sketch of Violet-Lodge, the neat residence of Mrs. H**. over-hanging the river Barrow, and within a few miles of Leighlin-bridge, was taken by a lad who had been on a visit there several days.

VIOLET-LODGE.

NOT tow'ring arches here attract the eye,
Nor marble pillars rear their heads on high,
Despotic wealth no dwelling here has found,
Nor soft profusion, lux'ry sheds around.
Far humbler scenes! here charming little spot,
With simple elegance the eye is caught;
The vi'let tinge, the jess'mine's sweetest bow'r,
The rose, the amaranth, each varied flow'r,
The encirc'ling woodbine, honeysuckle gay,
Here tranquil pleasure, calm delight convey.
Beneath thy brow, a stream with boughs o'erhung,
Its glassy surface slowly winds along:
The distant village,* now the scene adorns,
Rich landscapes constitute, sweet cot, thy charms,
Where mirth, and health, and pleasure ever reign,
And blest contentment is the lot of Jane.†

Rathellen, Oct. 11, 1809. J.N.

WRITTEN AFTER READING A LETTER ANNOUNCING THE DEATH OF A YOUNG MAN, WHO DIED OF THE YELLOW FEVER IN VIRGINIA, AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN MARRIED ON HIS RETURN TO EUROPE.

THIS goodly world, so beauteous and so fair,
The work of wisdom, feels no trivial share,
Of trial, sorrow, misery and pain,
That scarce the wounded bosom can explain;
But *suffering virtue*, whereso'er thou art,
Do not despair, though with a bleeding heart;

* Bagnels-Town.
† Its fair inhabitant.

Couldst thou thy part as Heaven the whole surveys,
Perhaps thy sighs might rise to songs of praise.
In youth's fair morn, when tender hearts unite,
The prospect opens with supreme delight;
Distrust retires, life wears her loveliest hues,
And brilliant *Hope* her path with roses strews;
While future years in long perspective rise,
Without a cloud to stain the smiling skies;
So met the pair! whose tale the muse essays,
Love shed its influence o'er their early days;
Constant and kind, at eve's soft fall they meet,
'Till time brought forth the sacred promise sweet;
But lo! while thus their mutual minds agree,
The youth look'd frequent to th' alluring sea;
Yet once again, my Mary, let me go—
Our lives shall then a blissful union know.
Reluctant now, with silent grief they part,
The youth respectful holds her to his heart;
Their last embrace some crystal drops allow'd,
Like rainbow tears beneath a falling cloud.
Now to the ship the sad commander hies,
Collects his crew, the Eastern breezes rise,
His sails expand, he leaves his native isle,
While Mary's parting looks his cares beguile;
And still he turns advancing o'er the main,
To that blest hour when they shall meet again:
Illusion all! for they shall meet no more;
The vessel hovers on Rappahannoc's shore,
The hapless captain seeks the infected quay,
And bears unknown the seeds of death away.
Now through his frame the livid fever spreads,
While from the conflict languid life recedes;
His mournful comrades bending o'er his bed,
Their tears around their dying master shed;
And when him breathless to the tomb they bore,
Again they wept; their sorrows stream the more.
Beneath her own paternal roof the maid,
Now liv'd retir'd—the sea she oft survey'd,
And many a long and wishful look she gave,
While sunk the sun beneath the golden wave;
Oft to relieve the hours of anxious thought,
For the dear youth, her skilful fingers wrought,
Some pleasing token of her tender care,
Which he, when she could call him hers, should wear.
But ah! to him no nuptial robes allow'd,
For all he wanted was the mournful shroud:
Where is the heart to nature's feelings true,
But loves to feed on the delightful view,
Affection pictures on our future days,
When wedded love around our hearths shall blaze;
When home shall all our happiest hours employ,
And the full soul shall overflow with joy.
While Mary thus the pleasing hope sustains,
The dying youth forgetful of his pains,
Looks back to her upon a distant shore,
Conscious that he must see her face no more!
Form'd as we are, by thee—*Almighty Power!*
Thy love, I trust, sustained the trying hour,
When far beyond the immeasurable sea,
The youth remembering her, look'd up to *thee.*
Oh! let thy love sustain,—of his bereft,
The tender maid in silent sorrow left,
Let not affliction heavy and severe,
Press on her heart beyond what it can bear;
But let the trials of a feeling mind,
Some lonely months to tender grief assign'd,
In thy pure will a sweet asylum find.

Cumberland. T.W.

AN INVITATION TO CHLOE.

COME Chloe leave the busy town,
Fly from the world's tumultuous noise,
Hie thee to me by Griese's stream,
And taste of Nature's simple joys.

Come breathe with me the balmy air,
Which in this valley we exhale,
Come share with me the sweets of spring,
And listen to the songster's tale.

The vernal showers that softly fall,
Serve but to make the scene more gay,
For greener are the verdant fields,
And warmer is the sun's bright ray.

The opening buds that deck each tree,
The early snow-drop's beauteous flower
All Chloe seem to call for thee,
And ask thee to my humble bower.

Oh! come then, come my long-lov'd friend,
And let us o'er the meadows stray,

Let us retrace remembered scenes,
Which ne'er before have seem'd so gay.

Together climb the nine-tree hill,
Together to the glen we'll go,
Together seek the shady wood,
Where wide their arms the beeches throw.

Dost thou remember, Chloe, say,
While yet thou graced this valley fair,
The eve we went to Narraghmore,
Our youthful hearts so free from care.

There from the hazel's loaded bough,
We joy'd the ripen'd nut to bring,
While with our cries of wild delight,
We made the woods' loud echoes ring.

To cull the violet's scented head,
How oft to Willow-brook we've gone,
How oft have we at morning's dawn,
My Chloe, wander'd there alone.

Let's tread again our favourite walk,
Let's hasten to the hills so green,
All nature pleas'd will look if thou
Will add thy presence to the scene.

Oh! come, then come and closer bind,
The band that friendship round us twined. EMMELINE.

THE DYING SOLDIER, A SONG,

TUNE.—"GENERAL WOLFE."

THAT evening, how sad, on CORUNNA's dire plain,
The field of the fight to survey,
As the moon dimly shone on the thousands of slain,
Whom that morn had seen valiant and gay!
'Twas here that young Patrick, deep wounded in fight,
Lay far from his own native shore;
He lifted his eyes to the pale-looking light,
That beheld him all cover'd with gore!

"Hail! wand'rer of heaven! (all feebly he cried)
I hail but to bid thee adieu!
O! dear to my memory! thou shall be denied,
For ever again to my view!
The green banks of Banna, just now thou dost see,
The glen, and the lawn, and the grove,
And the place where the date is inscrib'd on the tree,
Thou didst witness the vows of my love.

"Thou look'st on the cottage, the seat of my sire,
The happy abode of my youth,
Where a fond mother oft did my childhood inspire,
With precepts of virtue and truth.
Dost thou mark those dear parents, how fervent they bow,
Heaven's smiles on their son to implore?
Ah! how will their hearts be distracted with wo,
When they hear that their son is no more.

"Dost thou view my sweet Mary, as constant as fair,
How she wanders my absence to mourn!
My return, the sole hope that can soothe all her care,
But alas! I will never return!
"If beside the sweet maid, how contented I'd die,
She would smooth the rough passage of death;
But here, in a far foreign soil, I must lie,
Having yeilded, 'mid strangers, my breath!

"Thou land of my kindred, my friends, and my love,
And all that is dear to my breast,
My cares for thy welfare alone shall remove,
With the pang that consigns me to rest;
"That pang!—yes, I feel it—but soon 'twill be o'er,
For the purpose of mercy 'tis given!—
O! Erin! my country!"—he could say no more,
For that moment his soul flew to heaven!

Larne, Oct. 1809. M'ERIS.

VERSES TO A FRIEND.

THE vale retired, where purple hare-bells grow,
And the sweet, lowly primrose loves to blow,
The stream that winds in many a mazy round,
Or dash'd from high, returns a brawling sound;
The cliffs that echo to the noisy floods,
Or deeper murmur of o'ershadowing woods,
The gloomy grotto and the solemn grove,
Where musing melancholy loves to rove,
The glassy fountain and the woodbine bower,
That seemed so sweet at evening's pensive hour,
These are the scenes where we were wont to stray,
And give to friendship many a passing day.
Will you, when memory shall those hours review,
Bestow one thought to faithful friendship due?
Will fancy sometimes those fair scenes retrace,
And warm affection lend to each a grace!

And shall they to my absent friend appear,
As sweet as charming now, as once they were?
Or must the pleasing moments that are past,
Be in the stream of dark oblivion cast?
No fond retracing thought! no sigh sincere!
No gentle wishes, nor remembrance dear,
No tender feeling, when you hear me nam'd,
Nor tear half gushing, by affliction claim'd,
Our sacred friendship banish'd from your mind,
And all its traces scatter'd to the wind;
Ah! no, if true what my fond heart would say,
You'll think of me when I am far away,
Fancy each long past moment shall recal,
And dwell with secret pleasure on them all.

HENRY.

ACCOUNT OF THE LONDON NEWSPAPERS.*

ALAS! alas! the *World* is ruined quite,
The *Sun* comes out at eve, and gives no light,
Poor *Albion* is no more, the *Star* do'nt rise,
And the *True-Britain* nothing tells but lies;
'Twould be no ill should they the *News* suppress,
And never more permit the *British-Press*;
There is no hope at all the *Times* will mend,
And 'twould be well the *Globe* were at an end.

*Put into more regular metre from a late publication, with some additions.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

A NEW academy has lately been established in the kingdom of Italy, under the title of the Italian Academy of Sciences, Literature, and the Arts. Mr. Moscati, of Milan, has been elected president, and the Danish ambassador, Baron Schubart, vice-president, Dr. Gaetano Palloni is perpetual general secretary; and Messrs Bartolini, Ferroni, Simon, and D. P. Schulthesius, pastor of the German chapel at Leghorn, are the secretaries of the four different classes of the academy. There is another Italian academy, more commonly called the Academia Sacchetiana, from the name of its secretary, professor Sacchetti of Pisa, which has lately published the first volume of its Transactions, *Atti dell' Accademia Italiana*, at Florence.

Dr. Struve, who for near eight years has conducted the correspondence of the Russian government with the court of Pekin and other parts of Asia, and has himself visited and resided some time in that quarter of the Globe, has lately published in German, and also in French a work entitled a new and more accurate account of the Interior of Asia.

Mr. Guizot has published a new Dictionary of French Synonimes, including those of Girard, Beauzée, Roubeaud, D'Alembert, &c. It is well executed, and indispensable for all who wish to attain a thorough knowledge of the French language.

Mr. F. A. de Chateubriand has written what he calls a poem in prose, entitled the Martyrs, or the triumph of Christianity. His object was to show the superiority of the Christian religion over the Pagan. He opens the scene at the time of the persecution in the reign of Dioclesian, and carries his reader into almost every part then under the dominion of the Romans. Most of his characters are taken from history. It is in 2 vols 8vo.

In the art of portrait painting it is obviously important, not merely to give a likeness of a person, but to give a characteristic likeness. For this no doubt talents are requisite; but even talents may derive assistance from art. Accordingly Mr. J. B. de Rubeis has endeavoured to lay down the fundamental principles of this art, in his *des Portraits, ou Traite pour saisir la Physionomie.* It is written in French and Italian, and annexed to it is a Treatise on Anatomy for the use of portrait painters; to whom, as well as to the amateur, he has certainly rendered an important service

Mr. Macors, of Lyons, having discovered a Mosaic pavement in 1806 has since pursued his researches, and

dug up a space 200 feet long, and 56 broad. The whole of this space appears to have been covered with a pavement of very hard mortar, interspersed with Mosaics, all on the same level, except a piece thirty feet square, which is a foot higher than the rest. This consists of a very hard red mass, formed of broken bricks, and festooned on its four sides. It was apparently the centre of a temple upward of 600 feet in length. In one place was found a vault, in which were eighty amphoræ, not all of the same shape, and large enough to hold 18 or 20 quarts each. They lay one upon another, and only twelve of them could be preserved entire. A heap of charcoal was found in good preservation, some of the pieces of which were pretty large. It is very light, and very combustible. Not far from this was a large quantity of bones of animals. There were found likewise sepulchral lamps of terra cotta, lachrymatories, a few nails, two broken pots containing ashes and small bones of animals, an iron chain with double links eaten out with rust, an iron hammer nearly resembling ours with its wooden handle petrified, various fragments of Etruscan vases, &c.

Many fruitless attempts have been made, to render keyed instruments capable of the same prolongation of a sound, and swell or diminution of it, as wind or stringed instruments. The piano-forte, though superior to the harpsicord, which it has superceded, is defective in this: nor has the desideratum been supplied by the bowed piano of Hohlfeld of Berlin, the bowed harpsicord or pianno of Garbrecht of Connigsberg, the Xaenosphica, of Roellig of Vienna, the orchestrino of Poulleau &c. though they succeeded in some degree. The celebrated Antadni of Witemberg, has lately invented an instrument to obviate this defect, which he calls a Clavi-cylinder. The members of the Imperial Conservatory of Music at Paris, before whom he performed on it, report, that they were much struck with the beauty of the tones. The upper notes of the instrument have considerable resemblance to the flute, though more to the clarinet, and the lower notes to the bassoon; but it approaches nearest to the harmonica. On it the crescendo and and diminuendo may be executed at will, and the latter to an incomparable degree. If it's general tone could be rendered more intense, and it could be as well adapted to brisk airs as to melancholy movements, it would leave nothing to be wished. The Clavi-cylinder contains a finger-board and behind it a glass cylinder 2 inches ¾ in diameter, which is turned by means of a pedal and fly-wheel. The cylinder is not the sounding body, but produces the sound by friction on the interior mechanism. The instrument is never out of Tune. Its length is 2 feet 7 inches, its breadth 1 foot 8 inches, and its height 7 inches. It comprises four octaves and half, beginning with the lowest note of the harpsicord.

Dr. Pulteney's Sketches of the progress of Botany in England, have lately been translated into French, by Mr. Bouland, who has added some notes.

Phyllography, or a Natural History of leaves, by Mr. N. A. Desvaux, member of various societies, is spoken of by the French Reviewers as an acceptable work to the philosophical botanist. It will consist of 14 numbers, in 8vo, with 15 coloured plates on vellum paper, to each. These plates are executed in a new mode, by Mr. Bonnet and son, which is said to give a more accurate representation of nature than any thing yet attempted.

We find the originality of Dr. Gall's system of craniology is disputed on the Continent. It is said, that L. Dolce, an Italian poet, who died in 1568, refers in a dialogue on the means of preserving and strengthening the memory, to a figure of the head, which appears in the Venetian editions of 1562 and 1586, cut in wood, with the following inscription in Italian at the foot. "In this you may see the seat of common sense, of fancy, of thought, of imagination, of wit, of memory, and also of smell, and of taste. The skull is figured in Gall's manner, though he has greatly extended the system. The grand chancellor of Denmark, Peter Schumacher,

count of Griffenfeld, who died in 1699, studied cranioscopy. Swedenborg taught that good and bad qualities affected the form of the skull; as Lavater did that the brain operated on its figure.

The Emperor of Austria has offered prizes for the discovery of indigenous drugs, of the vegetable kingdom capable of being used as succedaneums for those of the East and West Indies, many of which had become scarce, and from the state of Europe it was apprehended might soon cease to be procurable.

Professor Viborg of the royal veterinary school at Stockholm, has published an interesting dissertation on the use of Horse-flesh. This daily becomes more general there, in six months, 170 horses were slaughtered and sold in the market; and some are said to prefer roast horse flesh to beef.

The skeleton of the mammoth, that was found with the flesh entire, preserved in the ice at the mouth of the Lena, in 1806 (for an account of which see Nicholson's Journal, vol. xix. p.158) is intended for the imperial academy of sciences at Petersburgh. Mr. Tilesius has taken forty folio drawings of it, which he means to publish. His observations do not entirely agree with those of Cuvier.

From meteorological observations taken at Moscow, it appears, that the greatest cold of last winter, was on the night of the 11th of January.—Dr. Rehmann having exposed quicksilver to the open air in a cup, it froze so hard, that it could be cut with shears, and filed. Count Boutourline found the mercury in three of his thermometers frozen, and withdrawn entirely into the ball; but in another thermometer, which was not frozen, from 6 in the morning of the 12th, till 35 minutes after, it was at 35° below 0 of Reaumur (46¼° below 0 Fahr.) Mr. Roger, of Troitsk, observed the quicksilver at 34° (44½° Fahr.) before it froze and retired into the ball.

Proffessor Soemmering, of Munich, is pursuing his grand work on the brain; and proffessor Fischer is collecting materials for a comparative *craniognosy*, or description of skulls.

Mr. Micali has issued a prospectus of a work, on which he has been busied several years, entitled *Italia avanti il Dominio dei Romani*. It will consist of five volumes, with an atlas of 60 plates of unpublished antiquities or maps; and will be divided into two parts, the first including the topography, with a history of the manners, customs, and remains of the ancient inhabitants of Italy; the second giving their civil and military history.

A Practical Course of Lectures on Fruit Trees, is to be given gratis every year, by order of the French government, by the superintendant of the nursery at the Luxemburgh. The course will last six months, occupying three hours a day in summer, and two in winter. The first commenced on the 22d of May last.

Dr. Morgenstern, professor of eloquence at Dorpat, has published a German work, entitled *Johannes Mueller, oder Plan im Leben, &c.* consisting of three discourses; in the first he inculcates on students the importance of laying down a fixed plan for their future lives, and pursuing it steadily, the advantage of which he instances particularly in the life of Mueller; in the second he shows the advantage of a methodical course of reading; and in the third, which was delivered at the opening of the imperial school for young ladies at Wyborg, he descants on the plan to be pursued in female education. In another academical work, written in very pure Latin, he has commenced a very curious treatise on the art of memory of the ancients, which will be concluded in two more.

In another half-yearly prelection the Dr. gives an account of a collection of original letters, and other pieces, written in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, bound up in twelve vols. 4to. which were presented to him by Mr. Von Essen, senator of Riga, and which he has placed in the library of the University of Dorpat. Among these valuable autographs are twenty-nine letters by J. Bugenhagen, a contemporary of Luther, with several by J. Sturm, Athanasius Kircher, Ambrose Magirus, Phil. James Spener, J. Aurifaber, Philip IV. of Spain, Charles

Gustavus of Sweden, Eric Oxenstiern, Jerome Schurpfer, G. Racocksky, and Frederick, prince of Denmark. They are addressed to Christian III. and Frederic III. of Denmark, Alexander Erskine, &c. Beside these letters, there is a testimonial given by Philip Melancthon to his disciple Winceslaus Michaelowitsch, with various other writings. Extracts from these are introduced.

The extensive library of Dr. Boecler, a systematic catalogue of which has been published at Hamburgh, is on sale. It contains a considerable collection of tracts relative to the plague, and other epidemical diseases; another on mineral waters, and a third on secret societies.

Mr. Conrad Levezow, professor of antiquities at Berlin, has published a little tract, entitled *De Jevenis adorantis Signo ex Ære antiqus.* The statue in question was formerly presented to Prince Eugene, of Savoy, by Pope Clement XI. At his death it was purchased by the Prince of Lichtenstein, who afterwards sold it for 1000 ducats to Frederic the Great. His successor removed it from the garden of Sans Souci to the royal palace of Berlin; whence the fate of war has tranferred it to the Napoleon museum at Paris. It is of bronze, 4 feet 7¼ inches high, and represents a young man naked, with his hands and eyes raised toward heaven, in the attitude of prayer. According to the proffessor this was not an unfrequent subject with antient artists, though this is the only male figure of the kind known. He considers it as an original, and, from the beauty of the execution, in the time of Praxiteles, or a little later. An engraving of the figure is given.

Mr. Joel Barlow, author of the Columbiad, who at an early period of the French revolution, published an able tract, enitled Advice to the privileged Orders, is composing a history of the Revolution in America.

The works of Turgot are publishing in nine volumes, 8vo. with notes, and an account of his life and administration.

Mr. de Choiseul Gouffier, member of the Institute, has just published the first part of the second volume of his Picturesque Tour through Greece, the first volume of which appeared above twenty years ago. He hopes now to be able to complete the whole as speedily as the nature of so superb a work will admit.

The Imperial Academy of sciences, at Petersburg, has proposed the two following prize subjects. 1. To improve the theory of sluices, and deduce from it rules for constructing these important works in the most advantageous manner, so that they may be as far as possible safe and speedy in their use, and constructed and kept in repair with the least expense; but particularly, that laden boats may be passed through them with the least waste of water.

2. To give a complete comparative chronology of the Byzantine historians, corrected and verified if possible, from the foundation of the city of Constantinople to the time of its being taken by the Turks.

The answers to the first are to be sent to the secretary of the academy before the 1st of July, 1810; those to the second before the 1st of July, 1811. The prize for each is 100 Holland ducats (46*l.* 5*s.*)

The royal academy of fine arts at Milan, invites both Italian and foreign artists to compete for it prizes for 1810. The subjects are:

Architecture. A vast and magnificent gallery to receive the select works of the painters and sculptors of the kingdom, the statues of the princes of the royal family, the portraits of the principal officers of state, &c. The prize, a gold medal of the value of 30*l.* sterling.

Painting. Publius Cornelius Scipio, restoring to Allucius, prince of the Celtiberians, his wife, taken prisoner by the Romans in the city of Carthagena, and adding to this valuable gift all the gold which her parents had laid at his feet for her ransom. The prize a gold medal, value 60*l.*

Sculpture. Pyrrhus, accompanied by Periphas and Automedon, and followed by a troop of soldiers, armed with hatchets, beating down the gates of the palace of Priam. The prize a gold medal, value 20*l.*

Engraving. The engraving of some picture of repute, not yet engraved. The prize a medal, value 15*l.*

Historical drawing. Ulysses chasing

away with his sword, the ghosts of Erebus, &c. The prize a medal of 15*l.*

Ornamental drawing. A magnificent fireplace, suitable to the apartment of the sovereign, with every necessary appendage, as fire-shovel, tongs, bellows, &c. The prize a medal of 10*l.*

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Books Published in London.

GREEK, LATIN, &c.

1. PINDARI Carmina Heyne, vol. III. continens Scholia ad Pindari Carmina; et Godofredi Hermanni Commensatio de Metris Pindari; 15s. boards; fine paper, 18s. royal paper 21s.

2. Pindari Carmina et Fragmenta a Chr. Gott. Heyne; 3 vols. 8vo. 1l. 19s. board; fine paper, 2l. 8s. royal paper, 12l. 17s.

3. Pindari Carmina Heyne; 32mo. 5s. boards.

4. Sophoclis Tragœdiæ Septem. ex edit. Fran. Phil. Brunck. 2 vols. 8vo. 1l. 1s. boards; royal paper 2l. 10s.

5. Sophoclis Tragœdiæ Septem a Brunck; 2vols 32mo. 10s. boards.

6. Vincent Bourne's Poetical Works and Letters; 2 vols. Foolscap 8vo. 10s. 6d. boards.

7. Potter's Tragedies of Sophocles; 8vo. 10s. 6d. boards.

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Sermons on several Subjects, from the Old Testament. By John Hampson, M.A. Rector of Sutherland, and Curate of St. John's Chapel. 8vo. 9s. boards.

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MONTHLY REROSPECT OF POLITICS.

A RETROSPECTIVE view of the political state of foreign nations during the last month, does not present any thing new to gratify the curious, but affords abundant matter for reflection to the attentive observer. The prostration of Sweden and Austria before their powerful invaders, was already obvious, and the treaties of Vienna and Friedricksham only brought to light the precise manner in which their humiliation and insignificance was to be completed, and themselves rendered henceforth of no weight or estimation in the general polity of Europe. The delay which took place in finally concluding the peace with Francis, and which many seemed willing to ascribe to the mental or physical inability of Bonaparte, seems to have been owing to that profound and comprehensive policy which has distinguished the latter since the commencement of his career, by which he has been enabled to acquire the most important advantages without exciting the fears, or alarming the jealousy of his imperial ally, and to extinguish the power of his enemy, and yet leave him apparently a powerful monarch, in possession of an immense territory. Shall we continue to flatter ourselves that he will display less ability in the subjugation of Spain and Portugal, and annihilating the Turkish empire, than he has done in all his former proceedings? or, that the hand of Providence will be mysteriously exerted to arrest the progress of wisdom and prudence in behalf of every imbecility that can mark the human character! A people, that, with such experience before them, will yet go on expecting security, without adopting any of the measures that lead to its attainment, certainly deserve the worst consequences that can ensue from their folly. We have not the smallest doubt but that the *power* of these countries if properly called forth and directed, is fully sufficient for every purpose of defence, and on this ground, we have been, and are still the strenuous advocates for a termination being put to the accumulat-

ing miseries of a war without any possible object; but when we see this *power* divided, weakened, dissipated, and the people still silent, we cannot conceal our apprehension that such strange indifference may lead to the most disastrous consequences. Our almost only hope arises from a prospect of the extremity to which we will shortly be reduced; when the ports of the Baltic are closed against our commerce, and America drawn into the vortex of hostility against our naval and commercial pre-eminence, the pressure which will then be *felt*, and the embarrassment which will take place in our pecuniary resources must rouse the country, and compel a system to be embraced and acted on, which may yet rescue the nation from ruin. With these hopes we can contemplate the divisions of a cabinet, and the immense and encreasing power of an enemy without despondence; neither indignant at the degraded state of the country, because merited, which suffers its honour and dearest interests to be compromised by the one, nor too much terrified at the imposing attitude of the other. We think a bright day will yet arise—but, the night may be gloomy and dreadful! *could* the people be brought to consider in time, all these apprehended horrors might be averted; a beneficial change might be wrought in our situation without any of those concomitant evils which have desolated the Continental kingdoms, and a mild and placid evening usher in all the delights of a vernal morn.

ENGLAND.

" Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay;
Princes and lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.

The times are altered: trade's unfeeling train,
Usurp the land, and dispossess the swain.
Along the lawn where scattered hamlets rose,
Unwieldy wealth and cumbrous pomp repose.
And ev'ry want to luxury allied,
And ev'ry pang that folly pays to pride.
Ye friends to truth, ye statesmen, who survey
The rich man's joys increase—the poor's decay,
'Tis yours to judge how wide the limits stand,
Between a *splendid* and a *happy* land.
Pround swells the tide with loads of freighted ore,
And shouting folly hails them from her shore;
Hoards, even beyond the miser's wish, abound,
And rich men flock from all the world around;
Yet count their gains. This wealth is but a name,
That leaves our useful products still the same.
Not so the loss. The man of wealth and pride
Takes up a space that many poor supplied;
Space for his lake, his park's extended bounds,
Space for his horses, equipage, and hounds.
The robe that wraps his limbs in silken sloth,
Has robb'd the neighb'ring fields of half their growth.
His seat, where solitary sports are seen,
Indignant spurns the cottage from the green;
Around the world each needful product flies,
For all the luxuries the world supplies.
Thus while the land adorn'd for pleasure all
In barren splendour feebly waits the fall.
Thus verging to decline, its splendours rise,
Its vistas strike, its palaces surprize;
While, scourged by famine from the smiling land,
The mournful peasant leads his humble band;
And while he sinks, without one arm to save,
The country blooms—a garden and a grave.
Here, while the courtier glitters in brocade,
There the pale artist plies the sickly trade;
Here, while the proud their long-drawn pomp display,
There the black gibbet glooms beside the way.
The dome where pleasure holds her midnight reign,
Here, richly deck'd, admits the gorgeous train;

Tumultuous grandeur crowds the blazing square,
The rattling chariots clash, the torches glare.
Aid, slighted Truth, with thy persuasive strain;
Teach erring man to spurn the rage of gain;
Teach him, that states of native strength possess'd,
Tho' very poor, may still be very bless'd;
That trade's proud empire hastes to swift decay,
As oceans sweep the labour'd mole away;
While self-dependent power can time defy,
As rocks resist the billows and the sky."

So sweetly sung the tuneful Goldsmith, in strains appropriate to the present times. The noble and independent sentiments displayed in his Traveller, require to be recalled to public attention, and form our apology for giving so long an extract from so well known an author. Indeed, in these times, when independence is much out of fashion, and wealth and power are so generally worshiped, a recurrence to the writings of the poets and authors of former days, may be useful to counteract the present tendency. We therefore recommend to our readers who have not lately read Goldsmith's Deserted Village, and his Traveller, to refresh their memories, and brace their minds to a higher tone, by the perusal of these excellent poems, in which honest independence is recommended in smooth and harmonious strains.

In England, civilization is so far advanced, as to be likely to approach to the opposite side of the circle, and to endanger the destruction of the comforts of the many, to aid the wealth of the few.

In Ireland, we are not so far advanced; we have yet to establish a substantial peasantry; while in England they are in danger of losing this best prop to a state, by the progress of luxury and wealth. That class of men formerly known by the name of country gentlemen, comprizing the landed proprietors of smaller properties, is melting away before the commercial aristocracy, of which the merchants, bankers and traders at Lloyds, are the representatives, and whose ascendancy in the state and in parliament is rapidly rivalling the higher orders of the old landed aristocracy. But "these may flourish or may fade," while the real cause for regret lies in the the decay of the middle classes of society from among whom a few draw large prizes in the lottery of life, and mount to the higher grades but the greater number are forced by the pressure of the times to descend to the rank next below them, and so on through the different gradations of society.

As a set off against the mania of the jubilee, and a fact more descriptive of the real situation of the country, we may be allowed to state, that in the opulent parish of Hampstead, the residence of our prime minister, a subscription was raised to treat such of the inhabitants as would accept of it, to a public dinner on the day of the Jubilee, when one half of the parish submitted to be treated. This fact at once shows the poverty of the people, and the decline of that spirit of independence, which is the best bulwark of a nation; for this spirit of independence, not the the chivalry of the pensioned Burke, is indeed, "the cheap and unbought defence of nations." The Jubilee is gone by: stunned and confused by its uproar, the people have neglected the important duty of examining into their critical situation: so far it has answered the end for which it was designed: but reiterated disasters will probably again and again recal a people unwilling to see their state, to more deep reflection. The plan to release insolvent debtors so far as it went, was probably in many instances a measure of just retribution: as it is likely that in many instances the number of insolvent debtors has been greatly increased by the pressure arising from the destructive wars carried on during the present reign. In the excellent parallel between Alexander and Bagshot, by the pen of Hawksworth, Bagshot threw back a shilling to pay the turnpike, to the man whom he had robbed, and whose son he had killed.

If it were the aim of governments to promote the interests of the people, as much as to gratify their own ambitious and interested views, we

should behold a new era, in which the people would have no need to have any largess doled out to them. Donatives characterized the worst period of the Roman Empire.

In London there has been a dinner to celebrate the anniversary of the acquittal of Hardy, Tooke, Thelwall, and others in 1794, on a charge of high treason, for advocating the cause of reform. The English manage most of their affairs by dinners. They have cabinet dinners, and opposition dinners, jubilee dinners to show loyalty, and commemmoration dinners to display patriotism. The affairs of parishes, are settled at dinners, and of late dinners for disseminating certain religious opinions are becoming fashionable. In the present case, if eating can be made to inspire patriotism, we do not object. The noble display of firmness by a British jury saved the almost expiring liberties of the country. The ministry of that day, at the head of which were Pitt and Richmond, who had themselves mounted to power through affecting to promote the cause of the people, were resolved to crush reform, by exercising "*a vigour beyond the law,*" and the prosecution of these men was one of their most prominent schemes.

By such means was public spirit broken down at that day, for few notwithstanding the acquittal of these men, wished to undergo similar hardships, and to this cause may be attributed much of the supineness, and acquiescence in public measures which has since enabled ministers to triumph over the public spirit of the nation.

The state of things however, would have been much worse at this day, if this plot against liberty had not been happily frustrated. The transaction deserves to be held in remembrance.*

It is related that an old foreign statesman grown hoary in the ways of court intrigue, sent his son to a congress of ministers in Germany, to settle some plan of pacification. The youth with

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* The hardships which these men underwent were great, although their innocence was pronounced by a verdict of their country. Many others were arraigned but the want of success in the first instances prevented their trials being proceeded on. Yet they had incurred the charges of defending themselves against the prosecution. A benevolent mind cannot but feel for the hardships of their cases after the lapse of so many years. Thomas Holcroft one of the sufferers, but who was not brought to trial, thus feelingly describes his situation, in the plan of defence submitted by him to his counsel, Erskine and Gibbs.

"This strange charge, Gentlemen, has brought upon me the consequences I have stated. Torn from my family, my literary labours suspended, my body imprisoned, my life threatened, and every exertion called forth lest it should be lost by false accusation, my usual resourses of subsistence were instantly swept away; for I have no resourses, nor ever had, nor ever wish to have, but by my labours.

"The moment when by the operation of the indictment found against me, the evils I have stated befel me, was the most fatal that in my case could have happened. It was when I had two pressing works to engage in and complete for the season of exhibition and publication. This season is come, I am wholly unprepared, my time must still be engrossed by endeavours to wipe away the aspersions that have been cast upon my character and the means of support for my family, for I know not how long are gone.

"To these evils are added the law-expenses of this prosecution; and think gentlemen, what these must be, where two lists were given me of jurors and witnesses, amounting to 436 persons—whose characters, passions, and prejudices, the Solicitor and Counsel for the defence had to examine through channels the most numerous and intricate, before they could be satisfied that the lives of the accused might not fall a sacrifice of mistake or perjury. I and my fellow sufferers were not wallowing in affluence; we could not give 8400*l.* to our counsel with their briefs; the counsel for the crown had this sum;—nor expend thousands, and hundreds of thousands in our defence. We had no national treasury to draw upon. Alas! we had the wealth of the nation, and the prejudices of the nation, and the power of the nation, to encounter. By what miracle could we escape? The innocence of those men must be evident indeed, that could endure such an inquest, and withstand such an assault."

modest diffidence distrusted his own powers, but his father to remove his bashfulness, replied, with a thorough knowledge of the talents of the statesmen of those days, with whom he had associated; "Go, my son, and see with how little abilities the concerns of states are managed." What is viewed at a distance is frequently considered as magnificent, but a nearer and a more accurate inspection dissipates the illusion. So with the present administration, and the views of their system, which they, themselves, from their squabbles, have happily communicated to the public, by which the people may be instructed, if they do not throw away the opportunity. Of administration, we may say, in a parody on Cowley.

"The feeble cab'net, battered and decay'd,
"Lets in new light, through chinks which time has made."

The late scramble for places has still farther aggravated the evils of the ill concerted, and ill executed armament against Walcheren, and the army has been suffered to waste by sickness, and eventually to become liable to a powerful attack from the French, while the domestic contest has been unremittingly continued for places.

The country is virtually without an efficient administration. At home all is in fluctuation, and their foreign diplomatic agents are in some instances ill-chosen. In America we perceive that a strong prejudice exists against the new ambassador from this country, whom they designate by the name of Copenhagan Jackson, on account of the share he had in the disgraceful transaction at that capital. We are thus furnished with another proof of the manner in which the attack on the unoffending Danes is considered by foreign nations. We fear it will be a long time before the British nation will recover its character for honour. We are not inclined by any means to defend the usurpations of Bonaparte, but we feel more peculiarly hurt at the violation of honour in this case, as coming closer home to ourselves, and as if to a certain degree, we and the nation in general were identified in the crime. On this account we have more than once in these retrospects alluded to the transaction, with feelings approaching to a sense of national debasement.

The idol of war has its votaries in all countries, and hostile nations, who may almost be said to have no other common sentiment, join in praises of this destructive demon! We are told by a late historian of the war in Spain, that such sentiments as the following are common in the French journals. "War is the lot of mankind, it has been, it is now, and ever will be, the principal occupation of states and powers: therefore God created human beings for the purpose of massacring each other: and the man of letters, who endeavours to persuade us, that war may very frequently be avoided, is a poor hair-brained visionary, whose folly we deplore, but whose ill-timed philanthropy is dangerous." We have heard many philipics against French philosophy, but surely genuine philosophy disavows such atrocious doctrines. How often have our ears been stunned, and our feelings shocked, by a repetition of such sentiments at home! We need not travel far to reprobate such philosopoy. Vice and folly are not solely privileged in one country, they have their shameless advocates in all! Many arguing from what is, instead of from what ought to be, form most erroneous conclusions, and attribute the effects of their own passions to the natural constitution of man. But the philanthropist cannot relinquish the pleasing consoling expectation, that an amended ameliorated order of things will yet take place in this confused distracted world.

A perusal of the 51st of Dr. Neale's Letters from Portugal and Spain describing the miseries of the retreat of the English Army previous to the battle of Corunna might stagger the stoutest advocates for war, and rouse the latent sensibilities of the coldest breast to feel for the woes of suffering humanity, in the most aggravated forms of famine, fatigue, and disease. We shall give a short extract. Dr. Johnson justly denominated history "the annals of blood." "It was with the greatest difficulty I could keep my seat on horseback. Every human being had fled: "the fenceless villages were all forsaken." Our soldiers absolutely lay down and died in the

ditches without a struggle. Few women were now to be seen, the greater part had perished, or fallen behind between Villa Franca and Lugo.

"The troops had some salt beef and rum issued. Not having any fires to cook the beef, much of it was thrown away: but the rum was drunk greedily; and the power of their stomachs being almost gone, I saw many fall down, after drinking it in a comatose state. Death, I have no doubt, followed in an hour or two. Hundreds of men and officers came into Betanzos barefooted, their feet swelled and frost bitten, and the flesh torn and bleeding by the granite and quartz pebbles!! Let us, putting ourselves in the stead of these sufferers, contemplate in idea these scenes. Serious reflection can scarcely fail to produce salutary effects and wean us from the epidemic fondness for war.

From the late proceedings at law, we have a probability that Colonel Wardle will bring forth his character undiminished from the rude assaying to which it has been subjected notwithstanding the chicanery of the opposite council. Although the motion for a new trial was refused on a point of law, we trust the trial of the Wrights and their associates for the conspiracy will further elucidate this business and do justice to the character of the Colonel. We do not wonder that the satellites of power, that place men and pensioners, should vilify him. They may be allowed to shew an antipathy to the detector of their schemes. But that the people, in whose cause he has stepped forward as a champion, and on that account drawn on himself much odium, should so readily join in the outcry against him augurs unfavourably of the state of public opinion, and shews an apathy towards their defender unworthy of a free people. If he have some improprieties of his youthful conduct in Ireland to atone for, actions which if they do not admit an excuse, at least receive some palliation, from his acting with a body not famed for discipline, he may still be allowed in his riper years to make a recompence for his early errors. A generous nation should forgive, more especially as his share in the transactions remains yet unaccounted for. how far his personal individual character was involved in the proceedings of the Ancient Britons in Ireland.

"The licence without the freedom of democracy" is still continued at the Covent Garden theatre. Without entering further into the merits of the question, we may be allowed to remark, that so much of public attention being given to a subject of such trivial importance, when compared with the awfully momentous concerns of the present period, shews in a strong view the low state of public feeling in the British capital.

IRELAND.

We are pleased to observe that the Duke of Richmond in his late southern tour took occasion to manifest a disposition averse from religious bigotry, and a wish to conciliate the Catholics Such conduct is deserving of praise, but the privileges of a people should not depend on the personal character or urbanity of a governor. The Catholics are busily occupied in preparing their petitions to both houses of parliament, for the restoration of the privileges which are yet withheld from their body. We heartily wish success to their exertions. As friends to the equal rights of all, and disapproving of Protestant ascendancy or Catholic ascendancy, we are advocates for their complete emancipation, and the abandonment of all disqualifications on account of religion; and of this principle the justice applies whether five, or five millions are concerned—The free exercise of religious opinions is not a question of numbers, but of sound policy. We wish that the national character may be ameliorated by an increasing liberality on all sides, and every distinction may be merged into that of a peaceable citizen of a truly free state. Such a consummation is an object of sincere and ardent desire.

All dominant religions have persecuted in their turn, and called in the aid of the civil power. History affords innumerable instances of Catholics and Protestants each in their turn, assuming that the doctrines of the others were dangerous to the state: a stale pretext by which in-

tolerance has masked its overbearing designs. A complete toleration liberally and *unconditionally* bestowed, is the most effectual means of removing the dangers arising from opposing sects. Intolerance on the part of the established sect produces a re-action from the others, and thus religious feuds become dangerous to the peace of a state, while if only a wise forbearance is practised, diversity of sentiment on the subject of religion does not interrupt the general harmony. Controul of opinions, and not the free exercise of them has in all ages and among all sects produced the danger.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.

The following State-paper was referred to in the Commercial Report for last month: it was then intended to have been inserted, but want of room prevented it.

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to General Armstrong, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America.

"Altenburgh, Aug. 22.

"Sir—Being informed that you are about to dispatch a vessel for America, his Majesty has charged me to make known to you the immutable principles which have regulated, and will continue to regulate, his conduct as to the grand point of difference respecting Neutrals.

"France admits the principle, that the flag protects the merchandize. A merchant vessel having a clearance from her Government, ought to be considered as a floating colony. The violation of such a vessel by searches, prosecutions, and other acts of arbitrary power, is a violation of the territory of a colony, and an attack upon the independence of its Government. The seas belong exclusively to no nation; they are the common property of states, the domain of all.

"Merchant vessels of an enemy, being the property of private individuals ought to be respected. Private individuals, who take no share in hostilities, ought not to be made prisoners. In all her conquests France has respected private property. Warehouses and shops have been left in the possession of their owners. They have been permitted to dispose of their merchandize, as they thought proper; and at this moment there are cargoes, particularly of cotton, passing in waggons through the French army, and through Austria and Germany, to proceed to whatever destination commerce may assign them. If France had adopted the practises of maritime warfare, all the merchandize of the Continent would have been accumulated in France, and often have constituted a source of incalculable wealth.

"Such would undoubtedly have been the assumptions of England, had the English possessed the same superiority by land, which they have at sea. We should, as in the times of barbarism, have seen the vanquished sold as slaves, and their lands divided among the victors. Mercantile cupidity would have engrossed every thing, and the Government of an enlightened nation, that has carried the arts of civilization to the highest pitch of perfection, would have given the first example of renewing the practises of barbarous ages. That Government is well aware of the injustice of its Maritime code. But what does it heed injustice? Its only inquiry is, what is useful.

"When France shall have acquired a naval force proportionate to the extent of her coasts and her population, the Emperor will gradually reduce these principles to practice, and exert himself to procure their general adoption. The right, or rather the assumption, of blockading rivers and coasts, by proclamation, is equally insolent and absurd. No right can possibly spring out of the mere will and caprice of one of the interested parties, but must originate in the actual nature of the things to which it belongs. No place is properly in a state of blockade, but when it is invested by land and by water. It is put under blockade, to cut off all means of assistance by which the surrender may be retarded; and in this case only accrues the right of preventing neutral ships from entering it; because, the place so attacked is in danger of being taken, and the dominion of it is undecided, and still in dispute, between the commander of the town and those who blockade or invest it: and from this arises the right of prohibiting neutrals from entering the place.

"The sovereignty and independence of the flag, like the sovereignty and independence of a territory, is the property of all neutrals. A state may surrender itself to another, divest itself of its independence, and undergo a change of Sovereigns; but the rights of sovereignty are indivisible and unalienable; the smallest particle of them cannot be ceded.

"England proclaimed France in a state of blockade. The Emperor, by his decree of Berlin declared the British Islands to be in a state of blockade. The former measure excludes neutral vessels from France, the latter prohibits them from going to England.

"England, by her Cabinet orders of the 11th of Nov. 1807, laid a tax upon neutral vessels, and compelled them to enter her harbours, before they can proceed to their place of destination. By the decree of the 17th of December, of the same year, the Emperor declared all such vessels denationalized, whose flag is violated, insulted, and trampled upon.

"To protect herself against the spoliations, wherewith such a state of things menaced her commerce, America laid on an embargo in her harbours, and though France, which had only exercised the right of retaliation, was aware that her own interests and those of her Colonies must suffer much from such a measure, yet the Emperor applauded the magnanimous resolution of renouncing all commerce, rather than acknowledge the sovereignty and tyranny of the seas.

"The embargo has been taken off, and a system of exclusion has been substituted for it. The powers of the Continent, in alliance against England, make common cause; they have the same object in this war; they must reap the same advantages; they must also run the same risks. The ports of Holland, the Elbe, the Weser, Italy and Spain, will enjoy no advantage of which France would be deprived. They will, all of them, be open or shut at the same time, with regard to any commercial intercourse with them.

"Thus, Sir, in point of principle, France recognizes the freedom of neutral commerce, and the independence of the Maritime Powers, which she respected up to the moment when the maritime tyranny of England, that respects nothing, and the arbitrary proceedings of its Government, compelled her to adopt measures of retaliation, to which she resorted with regret. Let England revoke her blockade of France, and France will recall her declaration of blockade against England. Let England revoke her Cabinet Orders of the 11th November, 1807, and the Milan Decree will expire of itself. The American commerce will then recover its complete freedom, and be assured of finding in the harbours of France favour and protection. But it belongs to the United States to attain this happy object, by their firmness. Can a nation, resolved to remain free, hesitate between certain momentary independence, her honour, her sovereignty, and her dignity?"

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

Paris papers state, that the royal institution of Amsterdam chose Mr. Roscoe a corresponding member, in the place of Muller, the Swiss, lately deceased. Such acts as these abate the rancour of national hostility, and alone, perhaps, prove, that modern warlike nations are not absolutely barbarous. It would give us unspeakable pleasure to record similar acts of magnanimity on the part of our country. Are Britons only insensible to all excellence that is not British?

In a former number we gave an account of the ill usage sustained by Ann Izard, who was foolishly supposed to be a witch. We now subjoin the sentence pronounced against the absurd and cruel votaries of superstition:

THE KING, v. AMEY AND OTHERS.

Mr. Serjeant Sellon moved for judgment on five men and five women, who had been convicted at the assizes for Huntingdon, in May 1808, on two different indictments for riotously assembling, breaking into the dwelling house of Wright Izard, assaulting Ann, his wife, scratching her with pins to the effusion of her blood, on the 8th and 9th of May, in two different bodies, there being six of the defendants on the former night, and four on the latter.

It appeared that two of the women rioters having taken up the impression, that they laboured under some bodily weakness, which was occasioned by the prosecutrix, and that they could only be liberated from this dominion by letting out some of the prosecutrix's blood, had so far inspired many of their deluded neighbours with their absurd prejudice, as to occasion the riotous assembling in question.

Mr. Justice Grose, in an appropriate charge, pointed out the impossibility of the charge against this poor woman, who had been the object of their ignorance and barbarity. The wisdom of our forefathers had so clearly ascertained that the idea of witchcraft, was entirely fabulous, that all punishment for the exercise of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment, and conjuration were exploded from our statute book, and in lieu thereof the pretenders to skill in any of these supposed arts, were to be visited with exemplary punishment, it

being ascertained beyond a doubt that such pretences could only be used by knaves, and believed by fools. The difficulty with the learned judge was to suppose, that any persons, at this time of day, could persuade themselves into the belief of such an absurdity. It seems rather as if the defendants had conceived an ill will against this poor woman, and had made this ridiculous belief a pretence for indulging it.

The sentence of the court was, that each of the nine defendants, who had only made one attack on the poor woman, should be imprisoned one month in the castle of Lancaster; that the others, who had been concerned in both attacks, should be imprisoned one month for each, and that each of them should hereafter find bail to keep the peace for two years, themselves in £40 and two sureties in £20 each.

The following short account of the riots at Covent Garden theatre, extracted from a letter to a gentleman in this town, received the 29th November, conveys a lively idea of the scene:

"We have sad work here about the Covent Garden Theatre; I was there twice, and the riot and noise exceeded any thing you can imagine. I was more disgusted with the conduct of the performers than displeased at the price; they played their parts without seeming to pay the least attention to the public. Not one syllable could be heard. In one part, where a dance was introduced on the stage, every one in the pit stood on the benches, and danced in the same time. You cannot conceive any thing so ludicrous as it appeared; the players and the audience seemed as if they were mimicking each other, and the cloud of dust raised was so great, that you could hardly see the stage. The Police Officers have been very active in taking up the offenders. The letters O. P. and the words Old Prices, are the words by which the opposition know each other; which are torn down by the managers' friends, when their party is strong enough; in consequence of which many gentlemen went with O. P. embroidered on their waistcoats, pocket-handkerchiefs, &c. conceiving that an indictment for robbery might be laid if they were taken. My friend and I agreed to go with different mottos on watch-ribbons, and he went accordingly with one on which I had printed with gold leaf *Old Prices*; it answered the purpose most completely; and I dont think any thing was taken more notice of."

Died....At Lansdowne-house, in Berkley-square, the Most Noble the Marquis of Landsdowne. His disorder was a liver complaint, to which he had for many years been subject. His lordship was married a few years since to Lady Gifford, but he left no issue. His title and estates devolve in consequence to his only brother, Lord Henry Petty, now Marquis of Lansdowne.

The death of the Marquis is an event his surviving relatives and friends will ever lament. This nobleman was indeed a polished gentleman; his elegant manners were only exceeded by his easy but brilliant conversation, in which the most honourable principles were ever manifested. His learning was extensive; and for decision of character, quickness of discernment, and depth of intellect, he was unrivalled. His country has to regret such endowments were not oftener exerted in her service; but although his attachment to her liberties and interest was ardent, yet a declining state of health rendered his Lordship unequal to the fatigues of an active life, and even for a length of time previous to his decease, prevented his enjoying the society of his nearest friends; Lord Landsdowne was, in short, one of the noblest works of God, a truly honest man.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

Married...Mr. S. Matthews, of Belfast, to the agreeable Miss Grace Greenan, of Hercules-street, Belfast.

Mr. H. M'Larninon, to Miss Mackey, both of Antrim.

Mr. Thomas Black, of Colerain, merchant, to Miss Henry, of Cookstown.

Mr. John Nicholson, merchant, to Miss M'Cone, both of Belfast.

Mr. James Rankin, of Londonderry, saddler, to Miss E. Pinkerton, of St. Johnstown.

David Mortimer, esq. of Lakeview, co. Cavan, to the amiable Miss O'Reilly, eldest daughter of Counsellor O'Reilly, of Eccles-street.

Benj. Sergeant, esq, of Saggard-place, to Miss Lyle, of Lylemount, county Londonderry.

Died...At Charlestown, near Ardee, Mr. Denis Roe; agent to the Right Hon. Lord Louth.

On the 18th inst. at Woodford, near Armagh, George Robinson, esq. Barrister at Law.

At Hillsborough, Mr. John Wright, First Lieutenant of the Lower Iveagh Yeomanry.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smyth, wife of Mr. J. Smyth, of Ballycarl, county Antrim.

At an advanced age, Miss Lewis, sister of James Lewis, esq. late of the Grove, near Belfast.

In the Isle of Man, Skeffington Bristow, esq. eldest son of the late Rev. W. Bristow, of Belfast.

At Comber, Miss Ellenor M'Connell.

At Hillborough, on Friday the 3d inst. Mr. John Wright.

On the 6th inst. at Cootehill, county Cavan, Mrs. Phelan, of Thomas-street, Dublin.

At Banagh, county Fermanagh, Mr. Nicholas Ginn.

LEINSTER.

Married....Edward Norris, esq. of Oberstown, county Louth, to the amiable Miss Boylan, of Legdoory, county Meath.

Mr. Edward Madden, of Maynooth, saddler, to the agreeable Miss Margaret Ryan, of Thomas-street.

In Kilkenny, W. Welshier, esq. of the county Tipperary, to Miss Maxwell, of that city.

P. Murphy, of Abbey-street, ship-broker, to Sophia, daughter of the late Dr. Thompson, of Hillsborough.

Robert Beale, of Beale-grove, county Wexford, to Miss Barry eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr. Barry, of Heathfield, in said county.

James Marum, of Mount Stopford, county Kilkenny, esq. to Miss Byrne, of Glashane in said county.

Mr. John Williams of Birr, King's county, to Miss Sullivan, of Drury-lane.

Died....On the 7th inst. at Renaughan, in the county Kildare Mr. John Reilly, at the advanced age of 97.

In Kilkenny, Miss Lawrenson, daughter of Edward Lawrenson, esq. of Rathmoyle, Queen's county.

At her house in Baggot-street, Dublin, Lady Bell, relict of the late Sir Thomas Bell.

In Baggot-street, Dublin, on the 2d of October, in the 26th year of her age, Alicia, the wife of Pat. Boylan, esq. cut off, by a long and lingering illness, from society, which she was equally fitted to adorn and delight, and from her family, whose pride and pleasure, she so justly constituted. Pre-eminent in all the duties and feelings of Daughter, sister, wife and mother; and deriving from conscious purity and innocence not less than from nature, a cheerfulness and vivacity, which disease could not always subdue, and death alone destroy, she has left, the only consolation a loss so irreparable can admit of, to her sorrowing husband, the memory of virtues and endearments never to be effaced; to her yet unconscious orphans, an example qualified hereafter to lead them to all that is amiable and good; and, to her numerous friends, the humble, but not unfounded hope, that the sufferings of her much afflicted, though short life, borne with a meek and christian fortitude, so becoming, and so difficult in her sex, and age, have prepared and purified her for the ineffable enjoyment of another state, whose happiness suffers no interruption, and knows no end nor limits.

MUNSTER.

Married...Herbert Gilman, jun. Esq. of Old Park, co. of cork, to Miss Coghlan, of Bride Park, in said co. Esq.

In Cork, Richard Rourke, the younger, of Springvale, county of Cork, Esq. to Jane daughter of the late Garret Nagle, of Ballynamona, in said county, Esq.

At Cork, John Oldham esq. late of Blarney, to Miss Anne Hollis, of Fish-street.

In Waterford, David Hughes, esq. to Miss Anthony, daughter of Mr. Thomas Anthony, of said city, Architect.

John Webb, esq. son of the late William B. Webb. esq. of Mallow, to Miss Allen, only daughter of the late Alderman Phillip Allen, of Cork.

At Cork, P. Despourrins, esq. Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, to Harriet, daughter to the late R. O'Callaghan esq.

Wm. D. Crawley, of Mount Pelier, in the County Limerick, esq. to Miss Price, daughter of Frederick Price, of O'Brien's Bridge, esq.

Mr. Godfrey C. Hodges, to Miss Ellen Crips, daughter to the late Mr. John Crips, of Limerick.

Died..At Belville, county Tipperary, the wife of George Bennet, esq.

In John's-street, Limerick, Mr. James Williams, junr.

CONNAUGHT.

Married...By special license, at Artane Castle, Daniel M'Nevin, esq. of Loughrea, county Galway, to Miss Donnellan, daughter of David Nixon Donnellan, esq. late of Ravensdale, in the county Kildare deceased.

Henry Miller, of Toonagh, county Clare, esq. to Miss Bindoe, daughter of Samuel Bindoe, of Cloona, in said county, esq.

Died....At Dromelehy, county Clare, Thomas O'Gorman, esq. commonly known by the name of Chevalier O'Gorman.—He resided for many years in France, where he obtained by his merit from that Government, the Cross of St. Lewis and the Red Ribbon. He was particularly attentive to his relatives, who experienced every aid that his limited finances would allow; but his benevolence did not stop there, for every poor countryman who went to Paris for the benefit of that education which could not be received at home, found a chearful resource in the bounty of Chevalier O'Gorman.

The following verses from the Morning Chronicle of October 25th, present as exact an account of the present state of affairs, as any we could hope to give, and therefore with it we conclude the public occurrences of this month.

The pregnant breeze is passing by.
That bears expiring Europe's cry;
With ruins swoln from Danube's plain,
The deluge backward turns on Spain;
Britain to whom they look'd for aid,
By rash rapacious councils sway'd,
Sees all her ill-plann'd efforts fail,
And stands exhausted, breathless, pale;
Her navy sleeps, her armies brave,
Stationed where valour cannot save,
Victims of incapacity,
By fever, or by famine, die;
Have ministers a proof in store
Of folly and of malice more?
Yes, it remains that they expose
To wond'ring and deriding foes,
A nation proud of its undoing,
And dancing on the brink of ruin:
While they, whose parricidal hand
Lit for their country's weal the brand,
Shall at the mighty blazing pile,
"Grin horribly a ghastly smile,"
And, senseless of remorse or shame,
Like Nero, fiddle o'er the flame. H.G

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From October 20, till November 20.

The fine weather which set in, about the last week in September, has continued ever since, and afforded the farmers full time to secure the potatoes, and sow the late crops of wheat, and in some districts it appears to have induced several of them to commence ploughing the land designed for spring crops, a practice which, the writer of this report has often experienced to be attended with the best effects, and would be glad to see more generally adopted.

The wheat brought to market is of so poor a quality, that the prices continue rather low, and in many places the farmers have experienced much difficulty in procuring good sound seed.

Oats and oatmeal, although the crop was a good one, keep up a tolerably high price, partly owing to the scarcity of water, at the corn mills, and partly from an expectation, that a liberty may yet be granted to use oats at the distilleries.

Barley sells at a price sufficient to remunerate the farmer, and induce him to continue the cultivation of it.

The fine open weather having allowed the farmers to keep their cattle much longer than usual, at grass, will prove a great saving to the hay, and probably make up part for the deficiency of that crop.

ADDITION TO THIS REPORT.

A letter from Carlow, dated 23d instant, states;—"Our wheat, oat, and potatoe crops, I expect will be sufficient for the demand; the wheat is partially damaged—Good wheat can now be purchased here, at 45*s*. to 46*s*. per barrel, of 20 stone (2½ Cwt.) oats per barrel of 14 stone (1¾ Cwt) 14*s*. to 15*s*. Barley continues to advance in price it now brings 23*s* to 24*s*. per barrel of 16 stone (2 Cwt.) potatoes 3*d*. to 3½*d*. per stone, and some less. Butter declining in price, the inferior in very bad demand, first quality 106*s*. per Cwt."

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Distillation from grain is prohibited by a proclamation from the Privy Council, until forty days after the meeting of parliament, when it is probable the prohibition will be further continued. In taking up the consideration of this question on the broad basis of general utility, it is not necessary to consider it merely as a trial of skill between the landed and agricultural interests, and the West Indian merchants, or as rum against whiskey, although it is probably with a view principally to favour the West India interest that the measure is adopted. There are more cogent reasons

for the measure. England does not grow a sufficiency of grain for the support of her population: supplies from the continent of Europe and from the United states of North America are very precarious in the present state of things with those countries, and it is wise policy to guard against the possibility of scarcity, or even too high prices, by keeping the stock of grain in these islands, as a depot for future exigency: and while grain keeps at the present prices, the farmer has no just cause to complain. Yet it is said that the failure of the duties arising from distillation will ere long be made a pretext for laying on additional taxes in Ireland, probably an income tax. It is not likely that much defalcation of the revenue arises from the stoppage of the distilleries, as the duties on sugar-spirits, and beer with the encreased quantity of rum used will go far towards making up the deficiency. If the people however are made soberer by being deprived of their favourite beverage of whiskey, we rejoice in the event, and say—*Perish that increase of revenue which is drawn from the vices of the people!* If additional taxes are laid on, although the stoppage of the distilleries may be assigned as the ostensible cause, yet the true motive may probably be traced to the profuse expenditure of the Irish government, and the excess of the expences over the income; as last year five millions, about the half of the national expences of Ireland were borrowed while Great Britain did not borrow more than twice that sum on her great resources. Such a state of things, like the borrowing of an improvident individual, must end in additional burdens; and little foresight is necessary to discover that a most heavy load of taxation must follow such a mode of management. The Irish nation may speedily prepare for new and heavy taxes.

Owing to some arrivals from Norway, and to more that are expected, timber of a better quality than we have lately had in the substitute from America may be looked for. The price is still very high, and probably will so continue, as a supply adequate to the demand cannot reasonably be expected in the present situation of these countries with the dominions of Denmark.

Notwithstanding the very dull sale of linens especially of the finer kinds in the market of London, linens, more particularly the coarse, are very high in our brown markets. Although the usual number of buyers do not appear as yet in them, prices are greatly advanced, as the supply of linens coming to market is small, for though the flax crops are better than were expected yet still there is a deficiency in the produce of last season, owing to the small supply of good seed received in spring; the effect of the rupture with Russia and of the mischievous Orders in Council operating on the trade with America. Notwithstanding the modifications of these orders the same impolitic treatment towards America, is still continued. If the people last year in a manly firm manner at the meeting of linen drapers at Armagh, and other meetings for similar purposes had expressed their sentiments as to our relations with America, some reasonable expectation might be entertained that government would have been induced to go further in necessary concessions to America. But the language of the day was to confide in the wisdom of the existing administration and we now see the effects of such a system in the high price of brown linens and the probability of a rupture with America. The temperate firm expression of the public will sometimes has and always ought to have a powerful effect upon the councils of administration: at least upon all proper occasions it ought to be tried.

Flax is rather advancing in the markets of Newry and Armagh, while the holders on last year's speculation are desirous to sell and lessen the large quantities, which, unfavourably for them but favourably for the community, still remain in their hands. Large importations of foreign flax and hemp are daily taking place. The flax of this year's growth particularly of the coarser kinds is superior to the growth of last year, has a less comparative proportion of tow, and yields more good dressed flax out of the stone of rough, it being according to the hackler's phrase, a *ready* but not a fine flax. From this cause at the market of Tanderagee and other places where fine flax is wanting for the manufacture, complaints are made that the quality is not so favourable for their purposes. This defect may in part arise from the attempt to save the seed, which induced the growers to let the flax ripen rather more than in other years, and therefore it does not dress sufficiently fine in all cases to answer for the manufacture of fine linens.

The attempts to save seed have been very general. In some places they succeeded and the smaller farmers and others were able to save more than they will require for their supply next spring. In other places, owing to the wetness of the weather at the

season of pulling, the attempt to save the seed failed, and the quality of the flax was considerably injured: yet upon the whole it may be fairly hoped that a considerable quantity, sufficient materially to affect the market for flaxseed next spring has been saved. Large importations of flaxseed have also taken place within the last three months into England from the Baltic. These are comfortable considerations in the present state of our relations with the United States of North America. The manner in which the linen board have apportioned their premiums for saving seed, has been extremely injudicious. They allow 2*s.* 6*d.* per bushel on seed rippled out, immediately after pulling, and 5*s.* on seed from flax stacked, and not watered till the beginning of next year: they might have as well restricted the period of stacking, till late in the spring, as flax cannot be watered in such circumstances till the weather becomes warmer, probably not before the month of April. Few of the smaller farmers and spinners can afford to let the flax remain so long without being brought into use. The arrangement appears calculated to encourage the large farmers at the expense of the smaller. A directly reverse plan would have been calculated to produce better effects. In Derry and Donegall where the flax crops appeared unfavourable, it is now reported that the flax yields beyond expectation. Accounts from Tyrone are less favourable as to the quality of the crop, and the quantity of good seed saved. Both flax and seed were injured by the wet weather in the attempts to save the seed.

Cotton wool, has not attained the high prices of last year, when speculation left so many to suffer from their rashness, and probably it with other American produce will not rise higher. Shipments of this article are making hence to Great Britain. Ashes are declining in price.

Among the causes by which the bank restriction act operates to produce the depreciation of bank notes, may be reckoned the great increase of private banks. The national banks of England and Ireland, being released from the necessity of paying their notes in specie, have extended their issues to an enormous amount. In consequence of this extended issue private banks can more readily procure national bank paper. We are to recollect that the principal check against too extensive issues on the part of private bankers, lies in the difficulty of their procuring paper of the banks of England or Ireland, to give on demand in exchange for their notes, and if in consequence of too extensive issues of the national establishments, their paper can be too easily procured, a most salutary check on the over issues of private banks is removed. By the following statement the great increase of private banks in England since the restriction act in 1797 may be seen.

The number of private banks in England were in 1797, 353; in 1799, 866; in 1800, 886; in 1805, 480; in 1809, 731.

In Ireland private banking has also increased since the period of the restriction.

Exchange on London is in Belfast at about 6¾ to 7 per cent for guineas, and 8¼ for notes; and in Dublin at 8 per cent, in a similar currency. Discount on bank notes rates at about 1⅛ to 1¼, while the discount on Dublin bills at 61 days is at to 1 per cent, being under the rate of common interest; a proof of the large quantities of bank paper now in circulation.

The Commercial Reporter will be obliged by information, conveyed to him through the Publishers, previous to the 20th of next month, as to the state of the flax crop, in the different Counties, and also as to the quantity of seed well saved.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from October 20, till November 20.

Barometer....highest	30	6	Thermometer....highest	57	0
lowest	29	2	lowest	31	0
mean	30	1	mean	44	0

Synocha - - - - - - - 1 Inflammatory fever.
Typhus, - - - - - - - 2 Contagious fever.
Ophthalmia, - - - - - 6 Inflammation of the eyes.

Cynanche tonsillaris,	1	Quinsey.
Arthrodynia,	5	Chronic rheumatism.
Variola,	4	Small pox.
Rubeola,	16	Measles.
Phthysis,	2	Consumption.
Asthma,	1	Asthma.
Epilepsia,	1	Convulsions.
Palpitatio cordis,	1	Irregular, and quick beating of the heart.
Dyspepsia,	2	Indigestion.
Dysuria mucosa,	1	Gravel.
Scrophula,	4	Evil.
Psora,	2	Itch.
Herpes,	5	Ringworm or tetter.
Lues venerea, *Gonorrhœa*,	12	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	18	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

The very sudden transition from warm and dry weather, to frost, has produced a much greater number of cases of chronic rheumatism, than usually occur; very large doses of oil of turpentine, have seldom failed to procure relief in this distressing disease, but in one case, after all the usual remedies had been tried in vain, the happiest effects were produced by the internal use of cajeput oil (an essential oil of the fruit of the *Melaleuca leucadendron*) Measles rage with unabated fury, and effusions into the lungs do not unfrequently supervene. Comfort should be preferred to fashion, and the use of flannel, and woollen stockings, those most excellent preventatives of many diseases, cannot be too strongly recommended. On the subject of medical reform, your Reporter is happy to be able to inform his brethern, that a bill which has met the almost universal approbation, of the most intelligent practitioners of Britain and Ireland, will be sent into parliament next session, by Dr. Harrison, and as nothing is wanting to ensure success to this undertaking, but a sum of money necessary to defray the expenses attending it, it is hoped that no person any way connected with medicine, will neglect to subscribe in aid of a measure, whose object is to promote the best interests, both of society, and his profession.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From October 20, *till November* 20.

'The various herbs, that countless deck the plain,
Where scarce the fool a haughty glance will deign;
Do they no profit, no attraction shew?
The God who form'd the world made them to grow,
Where'er they rise, no part of earth is lost,
Since e'en the desert may its beauty boast.

They tell of God, of gifts the boundless source,
The world's great secrets and of Nature's course.

DELILLE.

In viewing the operations of nature, we cannot see without surprise that wonderful system by which dead and inert matter rises again into existence, gives birth and nourishment to myriads who enjoy their day, rear their aspiring branches to the sky, and in their turn fall, adding another link to the ever revolving circle of renovation and decay; the youthful beauty of spring decorated with all its exhilerating glow of colours, no sooner gives place to the splendour of summer, than the decaying glories of the season present those emblems of decay—the various coloured tribe of Fungi or Mushrooms, many of which vie with the most gaudy productions of the parterre. Who can walk over our pastures without being attracted by the bright orange and yellow of the Agaricus aurantius, the beautiful ivory appearance of the A. eburneus, or amidst our groves in whose deepest shades spring the brilliant

scarlet A. muscarious, and Rosy and Crimson A. integer, without thinking that it was not without a purposed end that even these evanescent productions of the wilds, were clad in such conspicuous and beautiful colours, such are the objects which the hand of nature presents to the enquiring eye ; and such is the variety of Natural productions, that no season passes without presenting something to the hand of the naturalist.

October 22, Small Flowered Aster (Aster miser) flowering.

26, Thrush (Turdus musicus) Wren (Sulvia Troglodytes) and Common Bunting (Emberiza Miliaria) singing.

27, Saw the first Woodcock (Scolopax Rusticola) a London Newspaper says the first woodcock was shot in Cumberland on the 5th.

31, Common Lark (Alauda Arvensis) and Yellow Hammer (Emberiza Citrinella) singing. Barren Strawberry (Fragaria sterilis) flowering, Fieldfares (Turdus pilaris) arrived.

November 4, Redwing (Turdus Iliacus) arrived, I have observed these birds always to precede the Fieldfares, this season the Fieldfares were arrived in considerable numbers before the Redwing appeared.

8, Blue berried Honeysuckle (Lonicera cœrulea) flowering.

15, Many Furze or Whin bushes (Ulex Europeus) in full flower. This with the Barren Strawberry and Blue berried Honeysuckle may be considered as premature Flowering in consequence of the mildness of the season : while the prolongation of flowering in roses and many other plants equally mark it,

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From October 20, till November 20.

ALTHOUGH there are few countries in which more uncertainty prevails with regard to the particular kind of weather which we are to expect, than in Ireland, yet we may often remark the truth of the old saying, "long foul, long fair" and this season we have certainly experienced it, and nearly forgotten the unpleasant weather which prevailed during the summer, while we basked in the almost summer temperature o Autumn.

October 21, 29, ... Fine dry weather.
30, ... A light shower.
31, ... A fine dry day.
November 1, 4, ... Fine days.
5, ... Slight rain.
6, ... Fine day, thin ice on the puddles near Belfast,
7, ... Pleasant, dark day,
8, ... Some drops of rain,
9, 12, ... Dark, dry days,
13, ... A trifling shower,
14, ... Very fine, clear day,
15, ... Snow showers, which whiten the mountain tops,
16, ... Stormy night, with showers,
17, ... Snow showers,
18, 19, ... Fine day, ice unthawed through the day.
20, ... Dry, thawing.

The Barometer, during the present period, has scarcely varied from 30 inches.

The Thermometer has been uncommonly high for the season, on the 22d of October it was as high as 57, on the 25th it was at 43, On the 8th of November it was 50, the 9th 49, on the 15th, the first cold day was felt, when it was 35, and it kept gradually descending to the 19th, when it was so low as 25 ; on the 20th, it ascended to 32.

The mid-day height was on the 23d, 24th and 27th of October, as high as 61, and the greatest part of the time equal nearly 50.

The wind, during this period, has been 4 times South, once North, once East, three times West, 8 times S. West, 3 times S. East, 7 times N. East.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA,

FOR DECEMBER 1809.

1st. Day, the moon rises a little after 1 in the morning, and is soon followed by the second of the Virgin, thus heading, as it were, the five stars in the triangle of this constellation. She passes the meridian at 40 min. past 7 A. M. and sets 22 min. past 1 P. M.

5, She passes the meridian at 18 min. past 11 A. M. and sets this evening at 11 min. past 3.

10, She passes the meridian at 22 min. past 3. P.M. and may be seen this evening between the two first stars of the Archer and Mars, having passed between the two stars in the morning; she sets at 22 min past 8.

15, She passes the meridian at 28 min. past 7 P. M. Jupiter being now west of her, as she passed him this evening; at 9, she is 50° 26′ from Aldebaran, and at 14½ min. past 10, her eastern rim touches the sixth of the fishes, and at 15½ min. after 11 it emerges from behind her.

20, She is on our meridian at 18 min. past 11, being nearly in a line with the first of the Bull, and the third of Orion; the sixth of the Bull being near to, but to the east of her. Aldebaran and the Hyades are below her to the west. At 9 she is 44°. 28′. from the first of the Ram.

25, She rises at 29 min. past 8, under the two first stars of the Crab, having passed these stars in the morning; at 9 she is 69°. 33′. from Aldebaran.

30, She rises about 1 A.M. under the third of the Virgin, one of the five stars in the Triangle, and is followed by the first, which will attract our attention to the east of her; at 9 she is 52° 59′ from Regulus.

Mercury is a Morning Star this month, having his superior conjunction on the 30th, of course the opportunities of seeing him to advantage, diminish every morning. The Moon passes him on the 6th.

Venus is a morning star, but her height above the horizon at sunrise is daily decreasing. The Moon passes her on the 5th.

Mars is an evening star, passing the meridian on the 1st, at 33 min. past 3, P. M. and at 12 min. past 3, on the 19th. The Moon passes him on the 10th.

Jupiter is an evening star, passing the meridian on the 1st, at 28 min. past 8, P. M. and on the 25th, at 44 min. past 6.

Saturn is a morning star, but too near the sun to be visible during the beginning of the month, the Moon passes him on the 15th.

Herschel is a morning star, being seen on the 1st, to the east of the first of the Balance. On the 13th he will be but 2½ minutes from this star, which is to the south of him. The Moon passes him on the 5th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. Emersions.				2d SATELLITE. Emersions.				3d SATELLITE.							
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.		DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
1	20	5	18	4	5	8	22	3	12	25	51	Im.				
3	14	34	17	7	18	26	39	3	14	37	1	E.				
5	9	3	11	11	7	44	51	10	16	29	18	Im.				
7	3	32	10	14	21	3	6	10	18	39	38	E.				
8	22	1	4	18	10	21	47	17	20	31	58	Im.	* First Satellite Continued.			
10	16	30	5	21	23	39	28	17	22	41	32	E.	21	7	23	56
12	10	58	59	25	12	57	38	25	0	34	36	Im.	23	1	52	51
14	5	28	1	29	2	15	46	25	2	43	24	E.	24	20	21	54
15	23	56	56										26	14	50	51
17	18	25	58										28	9	19	53
19	12	54	53										30	3	48	50
													31	22	17	53

Look to the right hand.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several Articles are received from Correspondents, and are under Consideration.